SECRET INTREAGUES

OF THE

French Kings Ministers

AT THE

COURTS

Of several PRINCES, for the Enslaving of

EUROPE.

WITH

REFLECTIONS

On the Interest of those

PRINCES.

Faithfully Translated from the Original.

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TO THE

READER.

THE *following* Tract *is a Compendium of moſt of the Artifices and cunning Contrivances of the* French Court *for ſeveral Years laſt paſt, in order to the Attaining to that Formidable Power and Greatneſs it now ſtands poſſeſſed of. The* Author *appears to be a Man of ſome Figure by his being ſo curious in prying into the Secrets of* Cabinets, *and we muſt allow him to be a Man of* Intelligence, *and that he has given us many particulars very well worth our Knowledge: And there is a ſort of Merit in making them* Engliſh, *ſince it ſerves to ſhew the happy and prudent Conduct of our Government, which ſecures us from*

from those Miseries our Neighbours groan under. This and the prospect of so many private Cabals, is what I hope, will give the Reader satisfaction, which is all aimed at by the Translator.

THE SECRET INTREAGUES OF THE FRENCH KINGS MINISTERS

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IT's no difficult matter to discover the Origine of the Mischiefs which we labour under at this day: Those who wou'd but take the pains to make reflexion upon what has occurr'd within these twenty Years in *Europe*, would, with me, grant, that if sad Experience had but taught us to be wise, we should not now see our selves reduced to the miserable Estate we are in. For 'tis not of late only, that *France* began to infringe Treaties, which seem'd the most Sacred. Her Ambition could not curb it self so long from appearing. But we have been either so weak, or so blind, as not to think of opposing Her Designs, until it was too late. Wherefore we can only impute our Misfortunes to our selves, and sincerely own, that if we now undergo the punishment

of

of our Imprudence, it is a puniſhment we have richly deſerv'd.

And indeed to whom ought we more to attribute the weakneſs of the *Spaniards*, than to our ſelves, who have ſo often contributed to reduce them to the Circumſtances they are in at this day? Was it not eaſie for us to ſee, that they only ſupported themſelves by the means of the Cabals on foot in *France*, in the time of Cardinal *Mazarine*, and that if the Prince of *Conde* had abandoned them, it had been Adieu to their Fortune, and Repute? Yet notwithſtanding, we had ſeen they had loſt the Aſſiſtance of that Prince, who by the Peace of the *Pyrenees*, was returned into his Duty, and that *France*, to the prejudice of ſo Holy, and ſo authentick a Treaty, continued not only to fomente the Troubles of *Portugal*, but to ſend thither Succours at ſeveral times, though we had ſeen, I ſay, that the Peace was only a Maſque to Her Ambition, we ſtill ſuffer'd our Neighbours to be oppreſs'd, without ſaying a word, as if Policy ought not to have taught us, that 'twas time to oppoſe the Deſigns of a Nation, which will never be contented, until it has glutted it's Ambition with the Conqueſt of the whole Earth.

Yet with how much Audaciouſneſs, not to ſay Impudence, does it maintain that all it's paces are conformable to the Peace? Would it not ſtill inſinuate that all that paſs'd in the buſineſs of *Portugal*, paſs'd without it's Order; and while it ſent Men and Money thither, did it not outwardly forbid it's Subjects to bear Arms in that Service, to whom, on the other ſide it inſinuated underhand the going to the Aſſiſtance of that Crown, as the only place capable of acquiring them Eſteem and Reputation. This notwithſtanding, what did it not ſay to the Ambaſſador of *Spain*, who highly complained of theſe Infractions, and who ſaw before his Eyes in the Metropolis of the Kingdom, the *Marquis de Bouzeu* rais'd publickly a Regiment of Horſe for the Service of that Crown, after having treated in Appearance with the Ambaſſador of *Portugal*, but in effect with the Court of *France*? It would needs have

have, that all this Ambassador urg'd, was but effects of his Imagination, just as at this day it endeavours to insinuate into us, that it has not any design of making War; though for some months past, it has laid waste, and eat up a Country which does not belong to it, and to which it would not have any lawful Pretensions, if Reason and Justice were the Rule of its Actions.

And as then we gaz'd upon all its Attempts, and Motions, without budging in the least, we do little more now, though we see our selves upon the point of being the unhappy Victims of its Ambition? How many in the State have found fault with sending Succours to the *Spaniards*, and if they receive any from us, are not both they and we indebted for the so doing, to the Prudence, and Sagacity of the Prince of *Orange*, who seeing farther than others, could not endure that all possible means are used for our Oppression, without doing what became, and lay in him for prevention.

For this reason it is, we see this Great Prince so much the mark of the Persecutions of *France*, that cannot esteem Vertue, but when it suits with its Interests, and has used all the little Politick Tricks imaginable, to revenge itself on his Generous Oppositions.

But to return to my Subject, I say, *France* endeavoured to cast a Mist before the Eyes of the *Spanish* Ambassador, who was far from being slurr'd upon, when an unsuspected Encounter caus'd him to do things with more heighth, and no longer to disguize his sentiments. *France* had Treated with *Mont-George*, who was kill'd in these last Wars, and was then a Captain in *Candale*, being a brave Man, and loving War above all things, about Conducting Officers, and Soldiers into *Portugal*. Now *Mont-George* being Embark'd with them, in order to his getting as soon as possible into that Country, having been taken by the *Spaniards*, who had notice of his departure for that time, it was forc'd to pull off the Mask, because the *Spaniards* already spake of taking off his Head. Whereupon a Courrier was dispatch'd in all

haste to *Madrid*; and the Court of *Spain*, seeing he was re-demanded by *France*, durst not proceed farther in that matter, for fear of drawing upon itself the War, which it was very willing to avoid.

So great a piece of Infidelity was followed with a world of others of the like nature, without any Potentates interposing his Authority, to bring these things to be regulated according to Justice. Not but that there were Guarrands of the Peace of the *Pyrenees*, but not the least aid would they give unto the *Spaniards*, whom it was endeavour'd to oppress by so many indirect ways. The *Spaniards* too, whether that they were become insensible, or as is more probable, they knew their weakness, suffer'd themselves to be thus *Fool'd and goodmorrow'd* if I may use that word, without shewing any Resentment but by Complaints so little suitable to Soveraigns, unless they be followed with some effects; so as others seeing they swallow'd all these affronts without saying ought, did not think themselves more oblig'd than they themselves to take their part.

Mean while, if their weakness appear'd in any thing, it was undoubtedly in what happen'd at *London* between Mon. *D'Estrades*, and the Baron *de Vatteville*, Ambassadors of the two Crowns. For after the Baron *de Vatteville* had got the precedence of Mon. *D'Estrades*, at an entrance made by another Ambassador, he was not only disown'd by *Spain*, but *Spain* has for ever varnish'd its Reputation, by a shameful Declaration, which I dare not repeat, nay, which I dare not so much as call to mind, for fear of blushing upon its account. Yet if it be well remembred, the fault thereof ought to be attributed to other Powers, who shew'd themselves so passionate for Peace, that they took not any share in the Affront that was meant upon *Spain*, which seeing itself abondoned by all the World, was obliged to relax of its usual haughtiness.

The best Head-pieces then considering with what Arrogance *France* demean'd it self upon that occasion, were

of

of advice, that before it was suffer'd to gather greater Forces, endeavours should be used to oppose its Ambition; but the voice of these wise Politicians, was only listned to by way of Conversation, and the blindness began to become so Epidemical, that they consider'd those who held such like Discourses, as People, who had more mind to create Rits, than foster Peace, which they thought so necessary to all Europe.

Nor did they begin to see clear, until that *France*, being no longer able to bear the yoak of Ease, resolv'd to make War in *Flanders*, under the pretext of some Pretensions as Chymerical as those now on Foot: But in which, an Advocate of *Paris*, whom they had been careful to dill out from among the most expert in pooling of Clauses, undertook to give a Varnish, and some Colour. Nevertheless an honest Man would have been very much puzled, but this Advocate had serv'd his Apprentiship at the Bar, where for two Crowns they'l undertake the worst Cause that is, thought, that being much better paid for this, he should not neglect a thing that might make his Fortune. This honest having prevail'd over Truth, there quickly appear'd a *Manifest*, by which they endeavoured to make out, that though the King had renounc'd, by the Treaty of the *Pyrenees*, to what he might one day pretend in the *Low-Countries*, and elsewhere, upon the account of the Queen his Wife, this Renunciation was null, because that the Parliament would never be brought to ratify the Treaty.

This *Manifest* did moreover establish, that the Queen had a Right from that time over several Provinces, and to give this *Manifest* a Title, that might suit with what it endeavoured to insinuate, it was intituled, *The Rights of the Queen*. Now you must know 'twas the King himself who hinder'd the Treaty of the *Pyrenees* from being Registred, that for it might be a pretence upon occasion to thwart against what had been sign'd by the greatest Lords of *France*, and what he himself had sign'd

Mean

Mean while, this new litigious pretension giving occasion to all the World to make Reflexion upon the little Faith of this Prince, could not sufficiently admire, that a great Monarch, who affected to wearing the Quality of most *Christian* King, did things, which would have made the very Infidels to blush, whose actions some took pleasure in relating, that by the Comparison of those of both Parties, they might the more debase those of the King. And indeed they Query'd whether one was not obliged to keep ones word, and principally a word given so solemnly, sworn upon the Holy Evangelists, confirmed by a great Allyance, and in short, wherein had been us'd all that was thought most considerable, to render it the more inviolable. They Query'd, I say, whether any thing could falle from so solemn an Oath, to which every one answer'd, that 'twas an Action that created a Terrour in Men, and merited a just punishment from God.

And indeed a Man needs not be a great Divine, to know that Christianity, and the Church, which is but one and the same thing, teaches, that we are to keep our Faith, not only with a *Christian* Father-in-Law, but even with a *Turk*. There is a fine Example of this in a *French* Gentleman, of the House of *Anglure*, and which his Descendants do still Pride themselves in at this day. The particular History of that Family does make mention, that one of their Ancestors having been taken in a Battel, by *Saladin Sultan* of *Ægypt*, after a long Imprisonment, was set at Liberty, upon Condition he himself should return, and bring his Ransom, which *Saladin* had fix'd at a very considerable sum; this Gentleman after being arrived at his own home, and had sold a good part of his Estate to satisfie his Word, went back to *Saladin*, and told him, That he was come with the Ransom he had agreed upon with him, and that if he pleased to name any Person to receive it, he would pay it him immediately down upon the nail. *Saladin* not dreaming of him, and when he had set him at liberty, ne-

ver

her expecting to see him more, was so surpriz'd at his Generosity, that after having embrac'd him, and caress'd him to a high degree, told him he should thenceforward have more Esteem for Christians, than he had had before; that he not only remitted to him his Ransom, but also ordered his Treasurer to give him ten thousand *Francs*, which was a considerable Sum at that time, that he requested his Friendship, and desir'd him that the eldest of his Family might be ever called *Saladin*, that Posterity curious of knowing why they bore so extraordinary a name among *Christians*, might know at the same time the generous Action he had performed. Those of that Family have been careful to remember the request of *Saladin* to their Ancestor. All the Eldest of that Family have successively after one another, taken the name of *Saladin*, so that the *Count D. Estuges*, who is the Eldest of that Family, is still at this day called by that Name.

If I might be allowed to make any reflections upon this matter, it would be no hard task for me to prove that the present Age is very different from the former. Heretofore a *Christian* kept his word with a *Turk*, and now a most *Christian* King does not keep his with his Father in-Law. At this day the Descendants of a *Christian* are called *Saladin*, because their Father promised it to a *Turk*, and now a most *Christian* King neither minds the Word, which his Predecessors gave their Subjects of the Reformed Religion, nor that he himself has given them. At this day the House of *Anglure*, which is only the Family of a Gentleman derives all its Glory from that their Forefather executed the promise he had given a *Turk*, and now the House of *France*, which is the most August House of *Europe*, derives all its glory from infringing an infinite number of Edicts, which it has granted to *Christians*.

But to return unto my Subject, the *French* King grounding himself, as I have said, upon his imaginary Pretensions, and upon the Parliaments not having ratified the

Treaty

Treaty of the *Pyrenees*, resolv'd to break the Peace, and carry his Arms into *Flanders*. Mean while, as I cannot proceed on farther now without first giving an account of the Authority of this Parliament, for fear some should judge its Power extended as far as that of another Country, it is convenient that you be known that the last Order of Council, Cahiers all Acts of Parliament, and that its Power is now so limited, that though the matters in hand be only the interests of private Persons, the Council does often attribute to it self the taking Cognizance of 'em, and thus makes a mock of all the Parliament could Decree. Nevertheless its Authority was formerly very great, ay, and it's not long since, that it was to so high a Point, that it was look'd upon by all with Admiration, I mean the time of the King's Minority, but that time is now so much chang'd, that a man may say, there's now no knowing the Parliament again.

And even in that time, I mean the time this *Interview* appear'd in, the King had stript it of all its Privileges, had banish'd all those Members out of it, who were suspected by him, because they stood well affectioned to the publick good, and to say all in a word, contemn'd it to that Degree, as to go to it no otherwise than in great Boots, and with a Cane in his hand. Nay, he plum'd it of its very name, as well as the name of all the other Tribunals. For to shew that none but he was Master, he caused an Edict to be issued forth, by which neither the Parliament, nor the great Council, nor the Chamber of Accounts, nor the Court of Aids ought thenceforward to be called more than the Superior Courts, whereas before they were called the Soveraign Courts: Nay, and he had publish'd another Edict too, which seem'd to me still more injurious, for whereas when there was a design of any new Subsidies, or of some other Innovation in the State, he was used to go thither in Person, to have his Edicts verified, he had ordered the Parliament to verify them upon a meer Note under the Privy Signet, which he most commonly sent by a Foot-man:

so

ſo as that this Auguſt Tribunal, which had been inſtituted formerly, as a Man may ſay, to be the Mediator between the People and the King, and to ſave the one from the Tyranny of the other, was it ſelf oblig'd to buckle under his will and pleaſure; for there was no more talking of making Remonſtrances, which thoſe of the ſame Company formerly made, to ſtir up Kings to have compaſſion of their People: And if any were allowed to be made, they were only ſuch as were ſtuffit with Flatteries, and Diſſimulation; and juſt as certain Fathers make their Children ſometimes kiſs the Rods wherewith they come to Chaſtiſe them, in like manner were the People, who are the Kings Children, or at leaſt, who ought to be ſo, to thank the King by the mouth of their Magiſtrates, for all the Impoſts he lays upon them, to ſatisfy his Profuſions.

Nevertheleſs it was upon the Authority which the Parliament had in the Kingdom, that the King laid the Foundations of an approaching War, as I have already ſaid: In effect, the King of *Spain* being dead, there ſtraight appeared a ſmall Tract, under the Name of the Rights of the Queen, in which it was endeavoured to be prov'd, that the Renunciation which the King had made to his Rights by the Treaty of the *Pyrenees*, was Null; ſeeing the Parliament could never be brought to verify the Treaty. That though this Renunciation were good, which, however they were far from granting, it could not always ſubſiſt, by reaſon of the *Dauphin*, who had not yet Ratifyed it, and yet who had the greateſt Intereſt therein, as being one day to be his Mothers Heir: In fine, this Treatiſe was only filled with trim words, and few reaſons. For to begin with the firſt, true it is, the Parliament was us'd to verify what paſſed moſt remarkable in the Kingdom, but that this was abſolutely eſſential, is what I deny, and which I ſhall endeavour to diſprove. For Example, if a Marriage of a King be concluded with a Princeſs, the Parliament has nothing to do in the Contract, and we do not find it was ſuffered to

take Cognizance of that of *Henry* the Fourth, with *Mary of Medices*; and to ſtart a matter ſtill of latter Date, of that of the *Dauphin* with the *Dauphineſs*. And yet in this occaſion the thing perhaps was of as much moment as the Renunciation which the King made by the Treaty of the *Pyrenees*. Yes, but may be one or other may tell me that the ſpecies is very different, for a Treaty of Peace is concern'd in eſtabliſhing the repoſe of the People, whereas a Treaty of Marriage only regards the eſtabliſhing the Society of two Perſons. I'le own with them that their reaſon is ſpecious, but eaſy to refute. For if it be upon the account of the Intereſt of the People, that the Treaties of Peace ought to be Ratified by the Parliament, why does it not alſo verify Treaties of War, as well as Treaties of Peace. They will needs have that a Treaty which baniſhes War, and brings back repoſe into a State, inſtead of Troubles and Confuſion, which reign therein, are ſubject to verification, and will not allow that a Treaty of War, which muſt baniſh Peace, and bring along Diſorder, inſtead of the repoſe which all enjoy, ſhould be verifyed by Parliament, which nevertheleſs was only inſtituted to be watchful for the Preſervation of the People. Let us rather ſay, that this Cuſtom of thus verifying Treaties of Peace, was only introduced, ſince it was Enacted that Royal Gifts ſhould be verified in Parliaments, and that thoſe which were not ſo, ſhould be of no conſideration, and this to hinder Kings, who are commonly inclined to liberality, from giving away all their Patrimony, and ſo compelled for want of means, to vex and oppreſs the People. Let us, I ſay, conclude that the Parliament ſeeing that by ſome Treaties of Peace, conſiderable Alienations had been made, and principally under *John* the firſt, to retrieve them out of the hands of the *Engliſh*, and ſince, under *Francis* the firſt, to retrieve them out of the hands of the *Spaniards*, had attributed to it ſelf the Authority of verifying Treaties, to hinder thence forward the Diſſipation of the Crown Lands. But there's more, which is, that tho'

it

it were a Law receiv'd in *France*, that the Parliament may find fault with those Treaties it has not verified, this ought to be understood, if the Treaties were not made in the forms, or that they were prejudicial to the Crown.

In what remains, there's no saying that *France* receives any prejudice by the Treaty of the *Pyrenees*, not but that this Treaty was concluded with all the usual Formalities. In regard of the Formalities, they had been so far observ'd, that this had kept the matter much longer depending, than was necessary for the repose of the People, who after so long a War, only breathed after Peace. For they thought it not sufficient that *Lienne*, & *Pimentel* had set their hands to the Treaty, but for the rendring it the more August to future Ages, Cardinal *Mazarine*, and *Don Lewis de Haro*, Prime Ministers of the two Crowns, would needs sign it themselves too; so as that one may say it was the most solemn, and authentick Treaty that has been of a long while. Besides they had observed therein all the Circumstances imaginable, namely, as holding the Conferences in a place, which belonged neither to *France*, nor *Spain*, which however is Note-worthy. For this shews they were willing then *Spain* should go Peer-with *France*, but since it will not be allowed, as I said just before, one may say it had been Ratified, but what rendred this Treaty free from all manner of scruple, not only by the King, but also by all *France*; In effect, the Principal among the Clergy, and Nobility, had signed the Contract of Marriage between the King, and the *Infanta*, wherein was contained the abovementioned Renunciation, so as that it was a mistake to say, that the Parliament, which can at most but represent the Orders of the Kingdom, would not approve a Treaty, which was already approved on by the King, by the Clergy, and by the Nobility.

In regard of what I said before, that this Treaty brought no prejudice to *France*, that will be also easy for me to prove. For tho' *France* had then much the advantage

over *Spain*, yet it is nevertheleſs to be conſidered, that this advantage might one day turn againſt it ſelf, being obliged to ſhare his Conqueſts with *England*, which was then in its alliance. Now without ſpecifying by retail what are the dangerous Conſequences which I might draw from this ſharing, it's ſufficient for me to ſay that the intereſt of *France* was not to give one foot to the *Engliſhman* in *Flanders*, who was a much more dangerous Enemy than the *Spaniard*. Beſides, by this Treaty, *France* made ſure of the greateſt part of its Conqueſt, and changed into a certain Right, the Right of Nations, which was a Right ſubject to all the divers events of Fortune. In regard of what was objected, that the *Dauphin* had not ratified the Renunciation of the Queen, this is a feeble objection, and ſuch as merits no anſwer. For tell me, I beſeech you, a Father, and a Mother, do not they engage their Children, when they ſign a Contract? And why had the Dauphin more right to diſclaim what the King and Queen had ſigned, than thoſe had, who live under the ſame Laws, and ſame Monarch?

All theſe conſiderations do ſufficiently ſhew, that all that was in the Treatiſe of *the Queens Rights*, was only to impoſe upon the common people, and particularly thoſe of *Flanders*, who being once perſwaded that the Queen had ſome right to their Provinces, were capable of fomenting a Rebellion, to which they had other provocations, through the ill treatment, they received from the *Spaniſh* Souldiery, who for want of pay, broke out into ſeveral violences. Thus as it was a point of prudence, to prevent all ill conſequences of this kind, by undeceiving them with the ſooneſt, the *Baron d'Iſola*, one of the Miniſters of the houſe of *Auſtria*, ſet pen to paper, and made a ſmall treatiſe, to ſhew the nullity of the conſequences, which the Author of the tract of the Queens Rights, pretended to draw. And a great number of Copies, were diſtributed both in *Flanders*, *Germany* and other places of the neighbourhood. Nay ſome were tranſmitted into *France*, but the Court thinking fit, that their Nation ſhould

ſhould make its ambition, an Article of their Faith, made an exact ſearch after the Stationers who had diſtributed them, two or three of whom were ſent to the *Baſtile*, and were in great danger of their Life, for as it was not allowed in that Kingdom, to write truth in matter of Religion, ſo too in matter of Policy, it was not allowed to ſpeak it, or hear it from any one ſoever. For which reaſon, as well thoſe who bought this Book, as thoſe who vended them, were obliged to skulk, as if they had done ſome great crime. But the more they endeavoured to conſtrain Peoples wills, the more they ſtrove to render themſelves free, ſo as all worthy People, not minding the prohibition that had been made, ſought to ſatisfy their Curioſity.

By vertue of theſe imaginary pretentions, the King failed not to ſend to ſummon the Governour of the *Low-Countreys* to remit into his hands the places he pretended to belong unto the Queen. And as he did a little doubt this Governour would not comply with his demands, with a powerful Army he follow'd the Perſon, he had ſent to him, in order to the ſeizing them. His Envoy bringing him back word, that the Governour of the *Low-Countreys* had order from the King his Maſter, not to yield up the leaſt, he entred *Flanders*, took *Charle Roy*, *Ath*, *Countray*, *Oudenarde*, and *Liſle*, while that the Marſhal *d' Aumons* with another Army, attack'd ſuch Cities as Bordered next upon the Sea. Theſe Conqueſts which were made with great rapidity, amaz'd all the Neighbouring Potentates. They thought it their intereſt, to ſtop the Courſe of theſe progreſſes, eſpecially the United Provinces, who had no mind to ſo formidable, and ſo ambitious a Neighbour. Whereupon they engag'd with the King of *England*, to ſign a League, wherein the King of *Sweden* entred, by which theſe three Powers oblig'd themſelves to cauſe the two Crowns to lay down Arms, if not to declare againſt that which would not lay them down.

This League was call'd the Triple Alliance, and was in the Iſſue ſo fatal to the *Hollanders*, as I ſhall ſhew in due place, that for ought I know, they quickly repented their

over *Spain*, yet it is nevertheleſs to be conſidered, that this advantage might one day turn againſt it ſelf, being obliged to ſhare his Conqueſts with *England*, which was then in its alliance. Now without ſpecifying by retail what are the dangerous Conſequences which I might draw from this ſharing, it's ſufficient for me to ſay that the intereſt of *France* was not to give one foot to the *Engliſhman* in *Flanders*, who was a much more dangerous Enemy than the *Spaniard*. Beſides, by this Treaty, *France* made ſure of the greateſt part of its Conqueſt, and changed into a certain Right, the Right of Nations, which was a Right ſubject to all the divers events of Fortune. In regard of what was objected, that the *Dauphin* had not ratified the Renunciation of the Queen, this is a feeble objection, and ſuch as merits no anſwer. For tell me, I beſeech you, a Father, and a Mother, do not they engage their Children, when they ſign a Contract? And why had the Dauphin more right to diſclaim what the King and Queen had ſigned, than thoſe had, who live under the ſame Laws, and ſame Monarch?

All theſe conſiderations do ſufficiently ſhew, that all that was in the Treatiſe of *the Queens Rights*, was only to impoſe upon the common people, and particularly thoſe of *Flanders*, who being once perſwaded that the Queen had ſome right to their Provinces, were capable of fomenting a Rebellion, to which they had other provocations, through the ill treatment, they received from the *Spaniſh* Souldiery, who for want of pay, broke out into ſeveral violences. Thus as it was a point of prudence, to prevent all ill conſequences of this kind, by undeceiving them with the ſooneſt, the *Baron d'Iſola*, one of the Miniſters of the houſe of *Auſtria*, ſet pen to paper, and made a ſmall treatiſe, to ſhew the nullity of the conſequences, which the Author of the tract of the Queens Rights, pretended to draw. And a great number of Copies, were diſtributed both in *Flanders*, *Germany* and other places of the neighbourhood. Nay ſome were tranſmitted into *France*, but the Court thinking fit, that their Nation ſhould

ſhould make its ambition, an Article of their Faith, made an exact ſearch after the Stationers who had diſtributed them, two or three of whom were ſent to the *Baſtile*, and were in great danger of their Life, for as it was not allowed in that Kingdom, to write truth in matter of Religion, ſo too in matter of Policy, it was not allowed to ſpeak it, or hear it from any one ſoever. For which reaſon, as well thoſe who bought this Book, as thoſe who vended them, were obliged to skulk, as if they had done ſome great crime. But the more they endeavoured to conſtrain Peoples wills, the more they ſtrove to render themſelves free, ſo as all worthy People, not minding the prohibition that had been made, ſought to ſatisfy their Curioſity.

By vertue of theſe imaginary pretentions, the King failed not to ſend to ſummon the Governour of the *Low-Countreys* to remit into his hands the places he pretended to belong unto the Queen. And as he did a little doubt this Governour would not comply with his demands, with a powerful Army he follow'd the Perſon, he had ſent to him, in order to the ſeizing them. His Envoy bringing him back word, that the Governour of the *Low-Countreys* had order from the King his Maſter, not to yield up the leaſt, he entred *Flanders*, took *Charle Roy*, *Ath*, *Countray*, *Oudenarde*, and *Liſle*, while that the Marſhal *d' Aumons* with another Army, attack'd ſuch Cities as Bordered next upon the Sea. Theſe Conqueſts which were made with great rapidity, amaz'd all the Neighbouring Potentates. They thought it their intereſt, to ſtop the Courſe of theſe progreſſes, eſpecially the United Provinces, who had no mind to ſo formidable, and ſo ambitious a Neighbour. Whereupon they engag'd with the King of *England*, to ſign a League, wherein the King of *Sweden* entred, by which theſe three Powers oblig'd themſelves to cauſe the two Crowns to lay down Arms, if not to declare againſt that which would not lay them down.

This League was call'd the Triple Alliance, and was in the Iſſue ſo fatal to the *Hollanders*, as I ſhall ſhew in due place, that for ought I know, they quickly repented their

their having had any hand in it. A Man of *Rochel* is ſaid to have been the Perſon who laid the firſt Foundations of it; after having made all thoſe Powers ſenſible, how diſtruſtful it became them to be of the ambition of *France*. Be it as it will, *France* which never eaſily pardons thoſe who have once offended it, knowing this Man was in *Swiſſerland*, where he endeavour'd to inſinuate the ſame thing into the Cantons, ſent thither the two *Muzels*, the eldeſt of whom was a Captain of Cavalry, and the other Gentleman of the Horſe to Mon. *Turenne*, to endeavour the ſeizing him. The Affair was tickliſh, and of a ſtrange conſequence for the *Muzels*, if what they came to do had been diſcovered in *Swiſſerland*; but having had the cunning to conceal their deſign, and to trapan their Man, as he was paſſing from one City to another, they brought him into *France*, where he was broke alive upon the wheel, after he had endeavour'd to baulk the execution, by an action more reſolute than *Chriſtian*. For having found in the Dungeon, where he lay, a piece of glaſs, he made a ſhift with it, to cut off his privy members, and hid them under his ſtraw bed, for fear the Gaoler, ſhould chance to take notice of what he had done. But not having been able to ſtanch the blood ſo well, but that there ſtill trickled down ſome drops, the Gaoler would needs ſee from whence this proceeded; add to this, that his Colour did ſufficiently ſpeak him not to be in good health, at length the Gaoler having perceived what he had hidden under the ſtraw bed, with a great quantity of blood beneath, he gave the Judges notice of it, and as he was deſigned for a publick ſpectacle, they haſtened his ſentence. Whereupon he was condemned to be broken, and they fearing he would not have ſtrength ſufficient to go as far as the place where they put other Criminals to Death, and perhaps too, he would not be alive, if they deferr'd his Execution until the Afternoon, as is the common practice, they raiſed up a Scaffold before the Priſon Door, and he was Executed the ſame inſtant.

The Triple Alliance, which *France* had not foreſeen, did

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ſo ſtartle that Crown, that though it had promiſed it ſelf the Conqueſt of the better part of *Flunders*, it was nevertheleſs obliged to lay down Arms; not but that it had above a hundred thouſand men on foot, but as *England* and *Holland*, arm'd powerfully by Sea, and that *France* had not a Fleet capable of reſiſting ſuch great Forces, that Crown was afraid, that while its Arms were buſied in *Flanders*, the *Engliſh*, joyn'd with the *Hollanders*, would make a deſcent either into *Bruany*, or in *Normandy*, and caſt a terrour into the very heart of the Kingdom.

France being thus brought, as it were by force, to make a Peace, began to contrive how to reſent this outrage, and principally upon thoſe who had moſt contributed thereunto. And as people did generally attribute to the United Provinces, the Repoſe then enjoyed through all *Europe*, all the *French* reſentment fell upon it. But it was very cautious of letting it appear yet a while. For as *Holland* was as yet in good Terms with *England*, and *Sweden*, a way was firſt to be found out to ſeparate it from thoſe two Powers, which were ſtill capable of being re-united together, for the interrupting its Deſigns, as it only watcht for an occaſion, it quickly met with a very fair one, by a Controverſy which happened between *England*, and *Holland*, about Commerce; far was it then from offering its Mediation, as at other times it had done, to accommodate the difference; on the contrary it endeavoured ſtill more and more to irritate the King of *England*, and mean while cauſed a Treaty underhand to be propoſed with the *Hollanders*, that ſo they might not entertain any thoughts of making their Peace with *England*. The *Hollanders*, who had often found the aſſiſtance of *France*, when they had any variance with *England*, ſtill expected the ſame kindneſs, and the more, for that the *French* King ſtill amuz'd them with a Treaty. But when they thought to have come to a Concluſion with him, to oppoſe the King of *England*, they were ſtrangely ſurprized to hear that the *French* King had joyned himſelf to him and that while the *Engliſh* attack'd them by Sea, the *French*

were

were to attack them by Land, with ſuch numerous, and ſuch amazing Forces, that it had not of a long while been known that *France* had had the like. The United Provinces were then very much perplexed, for though they were extreme Potent in Ships, and Mony, they had no Soldiers juſt ready to Oppoſe the *French* King, whoſe Troops were already on their March through the Land of *Cologne*, which was the way he took to attack them.

Now to have gone about raiſing any in their own Country, beſides a long Peace, which the Provinces had enjoyed for ſeveral years, had rendred their Subjects more capable of Commerce, than of War, there was no great feats to be hoped for from them; the new Soldiers not being over-fit to reſiſt Diſciplin'd Troops. Whereupon the *Hollanders* ſent into *Germany*, to make Levies there, and to treat with ſome Princes, from whom they were in hopes of Succours. But all *Europe* was ſo ſtartled at the prodigious Preparations of *France*, that each was willing to keep his own Troops at home, not knowing yet, but that under the Pretext of attacking *Holland*, the *French* King might invade *Germany*.

The *Hollanders* had hardly more than five and twenty thouſand Men, for though they had diſtributed Commiſſions to all thoſe who proffered themſelves to ſerve, them, yet as thoſe new Troops were not on Foot, there was no reckoning upon them, until they were come to the Rendevouze. But what ſtill more and more weakned the State, is, that *de Witt*, *Penſioner* of *Holland*, who had much Credit in the *Republick*, had ever excluded the Prince of *Orange* from Affairs, and as he was a better Politician than a Soldier, and yet would be medling in all Affairs, went on very diſorderly, and in great Confuſion. There was ſtill another thing which did not a little contribute to the ruine of the State, but which was then unknown, namely, that the *French* King knew all that paſſed in the Country, by the means of one

Mombas,

Mombas, who was in the Service of the Commonwealth, that had confided in him a conſiderable truſt in the Soldiery. A *Frenchman* he was by Nation, ſo that the King found it an eaſy matter to gain him to his Intereſts, by the means of *Deſroches*, Captain in the Prince of *Conde*' Guards, and being his Relation, had prevailed with him to take a Journey into *France* the Winter before, where he had diſcourſt the Prince.

All theſe Reaſons were capable of entirely ruining the State, as is eaſy to judge, if God had not reſolv'd on the contrary. Mean while, the *French* King being juſt ready to enter the Provinces, the States Aſſembled, in order to reſolve upon what courſe they ſhould take to provide for their Defence. The Prince of *Orange*, who notwithſtanding all the Cabals of *de Witt*, had been Elected Captain General of the State, was of advice to abandon the places above the *Rhine*, to put ten thouſand Men into *Maſtricht*, and go and Encamp with the reſt at *Bodegrave*, whoſe Situation was advantageous to cover *Holland*. Mon. *d' Obdam*, and *Celidrek*, who ſpoke for the Nobility, were of the ſame advice; but the others having been of the contrary Opinion, it was reſolved to preſerve all thoſe Places, which nevertheleſs were ſtrangely weakned by a part of the Garriſons which were drawn out of them, to be ſent to *Maſtricht*.

Mean while the King, after having Encamped for ſome time before *Charle-Roy*, marched towards *Maſtricht*, and ſtaid twelve or fifteen days at *Wiſe*, a ſmall City in the Land of *Liege*, in which he put a Garriſon. There he waited for intelligence from *Mombas*, who having given him to underſtand, there were few or no men in the Cities above the *Rhine*, he paſſed the *Meuſe* at *Wiſe*, and after having put to flight ſome Troops, which were poſted in an Advantageous place, he came before *Orſoy*, which was inveſted at the ſame time. The Governour did not want Courage, but as the Town was none of the ſtrongeſt, and that beſides, it had but a

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very ſmall Garriſon, it yielded up the next day. The *French* plunder'd the Town, and hanged all thoſe of their own Nation, who were within it, and who had taken Arms againſt them, and among others, a man of Seventy years old, who was the Cannonier of *Oeſoy*. The Army marched to *Rhineberg* and *Duſſery*; the Commander of the Place delivered it up without firing one piece, for which reaſon the Prince of *Orange* cauſed his Head to be taken off in a ſhort while after. The Governour of *Weſel* made little more reſiſtance, though his Town was capable of maintaining a long Siege, and having delivered it up to the Prince of *Conde*, after the Trenches had been open for a day or two, he merited a puniſhment akin to that of *Doſſery*: Namely, that the Executioner paſſed a Sword over his Head, leaving him indeed his Life, but overwhelming him with Infamy. *Baric* was attack'd and taken at the ſame time by Mon *de Turenne*, after which the Prince of *Conde* advanced into the Countrey, where he took *Deudekom*, *Rees* and *Emmerick*, with the ſame facility he had ſeized on the other Places.

Theſe Victories, though they coſt not much Blood, made the King of *France* paſs for a *Cæſar* in his Army. For they ſaw that he like him could ſay, I came, I ſaw, I overcame. Wherefore to maintain the Reputation he began to acquire, he would paſs the *Rhine*, as that Emperor had formerly done; but reſolved to paſs it after a much more Noble and more Heroick manner. For that Emperor had only paſſed it over a Bridge, and for his part he would paſs it ſwimming.

Two Gentlemen of the Countrey Neighbours of the

the *Tol-huys*, whose Names I don't remember, went to the Prince of *Conde* at *Emmerick*, and offered to shew him a passage where there were but a hundred Paces swimming. He received their offers with satisfaction, and so much the more, in that the *French* saw a stop to their Conquests, because the *Issel* defended the entrance of the Countrey, not only by reason of its depth, but also upon the account of the Retrenchments that had been made on the other side, and which were hard to force. The Prince of *Conde* after having caress'd those two Gentlemen, and promis'd them great Rewards, commanded the *Count de Guiche* to go along with them, to see whether he might trust to what they told him: They brought the *Count de Guiche* just opposite to the *Tol-huys*, where plunging first into the Water, the *Count de Guiche* follow'd them with his Gentlemen of the Horse, while that his Troop staid upon the shore of the *Rhine*. The *Count de Guiche* having seen that they had said no more than what was true, return'd to give an account to the Prince of *Conde*, and that Prince sent the King word of what pass'd, and that if he would be of the party, he might fall upon the Rear of the Enemies, who not suspecting the least, were only careful to Guard the *Issel*. The King being excited the same time both with Glory and Ambition, went to the Prince of *Conde*'s Camp, who commanded an Army apart from his, and after having Supp'd with him, he march'd all the night towards the *Rhine*, whither he came about half an hour or thereabouts, before day.

Mean while the Prince of *Orange*, who had found more fidelity among the common people than in the

Nobility, having had notice given him by the Peaſants, that the King had ſome deſign on that ſide, he ſent *Mombas* thither with Horſe and Foot: *Mombas* had plaid Bankrupt to his Honour, by treating as he had done with the Enemies; but though this occaſion was ſtill favourable to him for the continuing his wicked deſigns, yet fearing he could not carry on his Treaſon ſo ſwimmingly in the rencounter, but that it would run ſome danger of being ſuſpected, he bethought himſelf of writing to ſome Deputies of the State, who were about the Prince of *Orange*, that there was no likelihood the *French* ſhould think of paſſing the *Rhine*, and if they pleas'd he would put himſelf into *Nimmeghen*, whither he had great reaſon to believe they were bent upon their *March*. He took his time to ſend this Letter, when that the Prince of *Orange* was gone out of the Camp with a Detachment; and as theſe Deputies thought him faithful, and that beſides, he repreſented to them the Affairs as preſſing, they ſent him word to do according to what he had written. The Prince of *Orange* being returned to the Camp, was much ſurpriz'd to hear what *Mombas* had done, and as he already ſuſpected him of Treaſon, and that this laſt action ſo very far from ſo undeceiving him, that it confirmed him ſtill in his Opinion, he cauſed him to be taken into Cuſtody.

Mean while he gave his Command to *Wurtz*, who was a *German* by Nation, and whom the Common-wealth had taken into its Service, and ordered him to march in all haſte to the *Tol-huys*, with ſome Troops, which were detach'd from the Army. *Wurtz* did what he could to retrench himſelf in haſte, but

ſeeing

ſeeing the *French* already appear'd on the other ſide, he lodg'd his Infantry in his Retrenchments, and caus'd his Cavalry to advance along the River. The King being come on the brink of the *Rhine*, caus'd Cannon to be brought at the ſame time, and pointed it upon *Wurtz* his Cavalry, who ſeeing Trees all along the *Rhine*, put himſelf with his Troops among them, thinking himſelf thereby the better ſheltered from the Cannon. Mean while in went the *French* into the *Rhine*, one after one, and many of them were drown'd, being ſwallow'd up in a Whirl-pool. Others ſeeing this, took the advantage on the left, and paſs'd for all the World like Cows, which follow in the tail of one another.

Wurtz his Cavalry ſaw them paſs, without flinching, until they perceiv'd ſome Troopers, who now began to come out of the Water, and form a Squadron. Then they came from under the Trees, where they ſtood, but inſtead of puſhing the Enemies that were return'd into the Water, they made a halt upon the brink of the River, from whence they made their diſcharge, which being at too great a diſtance, was without any effect. The little Reſolution which the Cavalry ſhewed, gave Courage to the *French*, who would never have dared to have ſtood their ſhock, if they had but followed them into the Water, and not ſtood gazing, and ſuffer them to ſtrengthen their Squadron with their Companions. *Wurtz* his Cavalry having thus quitted their ground, the *French* rallied, and waited for their Companions, who ſtill paſs'd the River, for the moſt part ſwimming, and ſome by Boat.

The Prince of *Conde* being thus in a Boat, with the Duke of *Anguien*, and ſome great Lords of the Court,

Court, he caus'd his Boat to turn back towards the Water-side, when he perceiv'd the Duke of *Longueville* had thrown himself into the River, and ran the risque of being drowned, he took him into his Boat, and endeavouring to pass as soon as possible, he was no sooner arrived on the other side, than that he drew up his Troops in Battel Array, in order to attack the Enemies Retrenchments. The *Hollands* Infantry finding themselves weak in sorry Retrenchments, and had besides placed all their hopes in the Cavalry, by whom they saw themselves abandoned, thought less of making Resistance, than of demanding the Quarter, which the Prince of *Conde* had offer'd them, calling out to them aloud, that they should lay down their Arms. Mean while the *French* still advanc'd, without one man so much as making a shot, either of their, or on the *Hollanders* side, which made the King believe, who saw all that pass'd, that he should have the Victory, without its costing him one drop of blood: But the Duke of *Longueville*, having made a Debauch, just before he parted from *Emmerick*, advanc'd up to the very brink of the Retrenchment, and fired his Pistol, whereupon the *Hollanders* vex'd they had not fired sooner, and fancying they had no more hopes of quarter left, made their Discharge, which being made, as it were in the very mouths of the *French*, killed a great many of the most considerable Persons among the Enemies. The Duke of *Longueville*, who had begun the noise, was killed stone dead, the Prince of *Conde* wounded, and many others, whom it would be too long to name.

The *French*, who had been startled at this Discharge, being recovered from their fright, Rallyed, and

and Attack'd the Retrenchments, where they found ſome Reſiſtance, eſpecially at one Barriere, where was an Officer, whoſe head was hoary with years, but whoſe old Age had as much Vigour as the moſt Reſolute Youth. But being at length overwhelmed with numbers, the reſt ſought their ſafety from their heels, not thinking of asking Quarter, which then they thought was to no purpoſe.

The *French* having no more Enemies to fight, plundred the Caſtle of *Tolhuys*, and put all the Iſle of *Betue* under Contribution.

This was not the only advantage they reaped from the paſſage of the *Rhine*; the *Hollanders*, who were then afraid the *French* ſhould come and fall upon them behind, abandoned the *Iſſel*, and retreated to *Utrecht*, where the *Populace* would have Sacrificed *Mombas* to its Reſentment, whom they accuſed of what had newly happened. The Prince of *Orange*, who knew he deſerved Death, yet was deſirous he ſhould be firſt queſtioned, and perhaps put on the Rack, for a full Diſcovery of his Treaſon, gave order he ſhould be ſaved by a back Gate, and hid him in Hay, to ſave him from the Peoples Reſentment. Mean while, the King in Perſon took the City of *Doesburg*, and Mon. *Turenne* thoſe of *Nimmeghen*, *Swoll*, *Deventer*, *Grave*, *Arnheim*, *Skinckenſkens*, the Fort of *Crevecceur*, with a number of other Fortreſſes.

Thus did *Utrecht* fall into the hands of the *French*, but without their being obliged to lay ſiege to it. For while the King was ſtill before *Doesbourg*, the Burgher-maſters brought him the Keys, as if they had been afraid of not having a Maſter ſoon enough. The Marquis of *Rochefort*, who was in favour at Court,

was

was ſent to be Governour of that Town. But as he had not yet much experience in War, he failed of ſeizing *Muidem*, which was abandoned, by the taking in of which nevertheleſs they had made ſure of *Amſterdam*. In effect, it was eaſy, being Maſter of *Muidem*, to hinder Ships from going in or out of *Amſterdam*, for they muſt of neceſſity paſs by *Muidem*, which they would not have dared to have done, if the *French* had been Maſter of it. Thus *Amſterdam* had been brought to the neceſſity of coming to render it ſelf up, as *Utrecht* had already done. Not but that if the King had ſtill come and preſented himſelf before the Gates of the City, they would have brought him the Keys; for every Individual was in that Conſternation, that they only thought of ſaving their own Families, without otherwiſe troubling themſelves about the intereſt of their Country. Nay, and without ſtaying for the Kings ſending to ſummon up the delivery of the Town, a Council was held in the City, whether they ſhould not go to meet him, to deſire he would be pleaſed to take it into his Protection, as well as all the Inhabitants, and there was a great danger of their coming to this Reſolution, if two Burger-maſters, whoſe names ought to be Conſecrated to Poſterity, the one of whom was called *Offe*, and the other *Haſſenaer*, had not encouraged the reſt to hold firm, and rather call the Sea to their ſuccours, which had been a ſafer Remedy for them, tho they were brought to the utmoſt neceſſity, than to receive the *French*.

After the King had taken the City of *Doesburg*, he went to Encamp at *Zeiſt*, two Leagues from *Utrecht*, where Ambaſſadors from the States came to demand

Peace

Peace of him. But as he was too haughty upon the ſucceſs of his Arms, he propoſed ſuch diſadvantageous Conditions, that the Ambaſſadours were obliged to return home, without coming to any Concluſion. Mean while, when they were arrived at the *Hague*, it was reſolved they ſhould go again, becauſe that Affairs on the other ſide were in ſo lamentable an eſtate, that they thought themſelves over happy, in that they might receive any manner of Conditions.

Mean while there was ſtill another difficulty, which was, that the *French* King would not come to any Concluſion, without calling thereunto the King of *England*, whoſe Demands were ſtill higher, and greater. The Ambaſſadors of *Holland* being returned to *Zeiſt*, and having met with the Ambaſſadors of *England*, a new Treaty of Peace was propoſed, but ſtill very difficult to conclude. For beſide, that *England* did not bate the leaſt of its firſt Pretentions, thoſe of *France* were ſo exorbitant, that it had been much better for the State to have periſht, then to have granted them. *France* demanded a Medal every year, in form of Tribute, with all the Charges of the War, which it made to mount to immenſe Sums. *England* demanded to have ſeveral things in the *Indies*, which belonged to the Republick, yielded to it; ſo as I have ſaid, the State had almoſt as good have abandoned all, as to have concluded ſo diſadvantageous a Treaty. The Republick having notice of all theſe things by their Ambaſſadors, who came home again from *Zeiſt*, without having effected ought, reſolved to break the Dikes of the Sea, which was, as I hinted before, their laſt recourſe in the utmoſt neceſſities. But what made them the more willingly proceed to this reſolution, was,

that the People, rejecting the Diſaſters of the State upon thoſe who had the Conduct of it, had Maſſacred the Penſioner of *Holland*, with his Brother; ſo as that they were in hopes, that as the State had Chang'd its Maſter, ſo alſo its Fortune would be Chang'd.

The States proceeding to that extremity, as to break their Dikes, gave them time to think of their Affairs. They ſent to the Princes of *Germany* the Propoſitions of Peace made them by the two Kings, for the better poſſeſſing their minds in what they imagined of the Ambition of *France*. They repreſented to them the piteous eſtate they were reduced to, and that if they deferred longer affording them aſſiſtance, it would be perhaps too late, when they ſhould be willing to do it. That the Waters indeed ſaved them for the preſent, but that they would not ſave them always. That the Winter being come, the *French* would paſs over the Ice to attack them, and that ſince they had not been able to reſiſt them, while the Provinces had been ſo flouriſhing, there was little likelyhood they could do it now, being fallen ſo low from their ancient Reputation.

Theſe Remonſtrances, the truth whereof was undoubted, ſeeing the ſad Eſtate the Republick was reduced to, affected the Emperour, the Marquiſs of *Brandenburg*, and ſeveral other Princes of the Empire. The Marquiſs of *Brandenburg*, as being one of the moſt Potent, firſt took the Field, to ſuccour it; and as the King knew he had to do with a brave, determinate Prince, and beſides a great Captain, he decamped from *Zeiſt*, and returned to *France*. But firſt, he thought fit to try if he could render himſelf Maſter of *Boiſle-duc*, which was ſhut up on one ſide by the Garriſon

Garriſon of *Grevecceur*, and on the other by that of *Endeven*. *Boiſle-duc* is a place ſituated juſt in the midſt of a Marſh, yet it is as weak in its outworks, as it's ſtrong in its ſituation. Nevertheleſs there's a Cittadel on the ſide, which looks towards *Holland*, with two Forts on the ſide of the *Maſtricht* Gate; but all this would not be reckoned for any great matter, if, as I have ſaid, its ſituation did not render it almoſt inacceſſible. The King eſtabliſht his Quarters at *Bouſtel*, but while he was preparing all things for the Siege, God, who had begun to take *Holland* into his Protection, ſent Rains, which continued for four or five days, without ceaſing, ſo as the Country is low and level, it was immediately filled with water, that a body would have ſaid they had opened the Sluces. The King thinking the fair Weather might return, ſtaid eight or ten days longer at *Bouſtel*, but ſeeing it did not leave off raining, he decamped, and returned home.

The Prince of *Orange*, who after the Death of the Penſionary, had all the Authority confided in him, ſeeing the People in ſome manner of repoſe by the *French* Kings Departure, thought of contenting them farther, by the puniſhment of *Mombas*, whoſe death they had long demanded. He had been Conducted from *Utrecht* to *Woerden*, and from *Woerden* to *Nieurbruk*, whither the Army of *Holland* was retreated. There the Prince of *Orange* called a Council of War, and began to examine his Affair, which appeared daily worſe and worſe for him. In ſhort, as his Conſcience, did not leave him any repoſe, and that he thought himſelf abſolutely ruined, he was contriving how to make his eſcape, which nevertheleſs

was very difficult, for he was carefully Guarded, having People always with him, Sentinels at the Door, and at the Windows of his Houſe. As he was muſing after what manner he ſhould go to Work to get away, one of his Friends got a Letter conveyed to him, by which he gave him notice that he had but three days more to live, if he found not the means to eſcape. That the Council of War was reſolved to make him ſerve for an example to others, and that it was his part to take his meaſures thereupon. *Mombas* ſeeing himſelf menaced at this rate, ſpoke the ſame day to one of his Keepers, who promiſed him in conſideration of ſome Money he gave him, to let him eſcape out at the Window, when he ſhould be ſet Sentinel at that Poſt, which happened on the morrow. This Affair being done, *Mombas* cauſed a *Spaniſh* Officer to be ſounded, who was to be upon the Guard the ſame day, at an inundation, to know whether he would let him eſcape that way, and get him a Guide ready. The Officer loving Money, as well as the Guard before-mentioned, agreed for a hundred Piſtols with him, who made him this Propoſition, in conſideration of which, he promiſed to get him a Guide ready, and to let him paſs when he pleaſed. This Bargain being thus ſtruck, *Mombas* gave one called *Villate*, a hundred Piſtols, this *Villate* having been his Gentleman of the Horſe, and the Manager of this Affair, to carry 'em to the *Spaniard*; but *Villate* inſtead of giving them him, went away with them, whether that naturally he was inclined to pilfering, or perhaps there remained ſomething due to him from his Maſter, and that he was content to pay himſelf with his own hands; be it as it will, as *Mombas* was ſtill reckoning upon this Bargain, all his Care now was to deceive thoſe that kept him

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in ſight, to do which, he went this way to work.

Firſt, he began to complain of a great pain in his Leg, ſent for a Chirurgeon, ſhew'd him his Leg, which by a wound he had formerly had, remained bigger than the other, and ask'd him what was to be done with it. He caus'd alſo a Requeſt to be made to the Prince of *Orange*, that he would ſend him one of his Chirurgeons, and theſe two Chirurgeons, the one as ignorant as the other, concluded a Plaiſter ſhould be laid on't, and accordingly ſent him one to be applied for that purpoſe. By this means he kept his Bed, without giving any ſuſpicion, and the day being come he had reſolved to make his eſcape on, he ſent for *Tobacco*, and told his Keepers he would come and ſmoke with them, after Supper. But on a ſudden, pretending he had no mind to it, he went again to Bed before their Eyes, and deſir'd them they would go ſmoke in the Antichamber, for that the *Tobacco* incommoded him. They having ſeen him in Bed, were far from believing he had any thought of making his eſcape, complied with his deſires, but *Mombas* getting immediately out of Bed, took the Plaiſter he had upon his Leg, put it upon his Face, and leapt out of the Window, below which the Guard I mentioned ſtood Centinel.

Thus did he traverſe the Camp, without being known by any Body, whether by reaſon it was duskiſh and toward night, or of the Plaiſter which diſguiſed him. But being come to the *Spaniard*, he was ſtrangely ſurprized to ſee that he refuſed to let him paſs, unleſs he firſt gave him the hundred Piſtols he had promiſed him. This Diſpute gave him to underſtand the Roguery of *Villata*, but it being now no time to make reflexion on it, his thoughts were wholly ſet, how he ſhould come

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off from this Affair; which nevertheleſs he ſaw but little probabilty of effecting. For the *Spaniard* ſtood flat and plain upon his having his hundred Piſtols, before he let him paſs, and *Mombas* would not give him them, not having about him near a hundred; In ſhort, being at this pinch, he was forced to make a vertue of neceſſity; and having turned his Pockets before the *Spaniard*, he offered all he had by him: But ſeeing that would not content him, he told him he might do as he pleaſed, but that if he was the Cauſe of his being retaken, as it was not to be doubted, he would not fail to accuſe him. That it became him to conſider what he had now to do, and that he had nothing more to ſay to him. Theſe Menaces ſtartled the *Spaniard*, and making him recollect himſelf, he took what *Mombas* was willing to give him, and let him troop on with his Guide. *Mombas* entred into the Inundation, and went thus three Leagues, having the Water up to his middle, nay, and often in danger of his life. But it was very juſt that a Traitor, who was the Cauſe of the Ruine of a whole State, ſhould ſuffer in his turn; and though what he underwent, was pretty ſevere, yet was it not ſo much as he deſerved.

Mombas being thus arrived at *Woerden*, with ſuch Difficulties as are more eaſie to imagine, than deſcribe, would have gone into the Boat which goes from *Woerden* to *Utrecht*; but when he was in, he perceived that a Woman, by whom he ſate, knew him, and had named him to another Woman that ſate by her. And as a Perſon that has done an ill thing, is ever under a Dread and Apprehenſion, he went immediately out of the Boat, being reſolved to take another way. And yet there was no other than that of the Cauſey, becauſe

the whole Country was overflowed, from *Woerden* into *Utrecht*. But being afraid that some or other might come to know him again upon the High-way, he put himself again into the Inundation, without any other Guide than his Despair; for the Man who had Conducted him to *Woerden*, was trooped off, thinking he had no more need of him; and besides, there was no safety in seeking out another, nor having a farthing too to pay him, he thought he had no other Course than that of returning into the Inundation.

Being come within a quarter of a League, or thereabouts of *Utrecht*, out went he of the Water, but so wet, that he could not for shame go to the City in that condition. Wherefore he had his Cloaths dryed at the first House he came to, and then entring the Town, he went to lodge at the Palace Royal, where he chanced to meet with one of his Nephews, who served in the Troops of *France*, where he was a Captain of Horse. But this Nephew seeing him enter, far from believing it to be him, he took him for a Ghost, for the Night before, a Man came to the same Inn from *Nieurbruk*, who had told, as a certain piece of News, and whereof he himself had been an Eye-witness, that he had seen him beheaded; And this Rumour was so spread about the Town, that no body would believe that *Mombas* was arrived.

Mean while the Duke of *Luxembourg*, who succeeded in the room of the Marquess of *Rochfort* at *Utrecht*, was very much puzled whether or no he should see *Mombas*. For on one side he would have been very glad to have got such useful hints and instructions as he was capable of giving, as being perfectly acquainted with the Country, yet he judged it not altogether

Policy

Policy to give him a good Reception, for that this would manifest too openly the secret Correspondence that had been kept with him. In short, being determined not to see him, he feigned in the presence of those who told him, as a great piece of News, that *Mombas* was in the City, not to give it any Credit, adding, that sure he would not be so impudent, after having born Arms against the King, to come again and put himself into his hands. They all knowing what the meaning of this was, their tongues were husht from that time forwards, and there was no more talk of *Mombas*, than if no body had known him.

For his part, when he knew the Duke of *Luxembourg* would not see him, away went he to the Prince of *Conde* at *Arnheim*, and as that Prince was full as Politick as the Duke of *Luxembourg*, neither would he speak to him, but in secret, and at an hour when all the world was still asleep. Whereupon he sent his Captains of the Guards to fetch him from his Inn at three a Clock in the Morning, and *Mombas* wrapt up in a great Cloak, came to him in his Cabinet. There did he sell *Holland* the second time, declared the secrets of the State, at least those he had been able to know, before he had been taken into Custody; and after he had informed the Prince of *Conde* of all he was desirous to know, he retired to *Cologn*, there to stay until he had leave to return into *France*, which was another Grimace to deceive the World, thinking thereby to take away the suspicions that had been conceived of him. Whereupon some time after they let him know he might come to the Duke of *Luxembourg*, and he served for a *Guide* to that General, when he came to take *Woerden*, which the *French* had abandoned after they had

had had it once in poſſeſſion. He it was who conducted him before that Place, when the Prince of *Orange* beſieged it, ſo as one may ſay, that as much care as before he had taken to conceal his Treaſon, as induſtrious was he then to blaze it abroad.

Now, tho' all I have now ſaid may ſeem to be rather the Hiſtory of the War, than a Continuation of my Subject, which is to ſhew the faithleſsneſs of *France*, yet I ſhould think it, perhaps, not ſo foreign as ſome may imagine, ſince I therefore call again to mind the Ideas of ſo many Treaſons and Perfidies: And indeed tho' there's no ſaying that the *French* Nation want's Courage, yet one may ſay, that it's very willing to joyn Cunning to Strength, without which we ſhould not ſee it ſo ſucceſsful in all its Enterprizes. But let's add at the ſame time, that what makes it ſtill ſucceed the better, is that mony coſts it nothing to attain to its Deſigns. For paſſing at one leap from War to Peace, let's examine, I beſeech you, what Courſe it hath taken to ſeparate all the Allies, and whether this Metal has not been of more uſe to it for that purpoſe, than all the *Rhetorick* of its Miniſters.

One of the greateſt Obſtacles to the Peace, was the difficulty of reconciling the Intereſts of the Crown of *Sweden* with the Intereſts of the Princes who had ſome things to clear and determine with it. As to the Crown of *Sweden*, all its Intereſt was; that as it had been engaged in the War upon no other account than for the ſervice of *France*, *France* ſhould cauſe all the Places to be Reſtored it, which had been taken from it, either by the King of *Denmark*, or the Elector of *Brandenbourg*, or the Princes of

the Houſe of *Brunſwick*. And the Intereſts of theſe three Powers was on the contrary, not to hear any talk of the Peace, until all their Conqueſts were abandoned to them, or at leaſt the greater part. Thus the difficulty was to reconcile ſuch oppoſite Intereſts; but ſee now how this Affair was brought about, and which made it no longer appear ſo impoſſible, as an Entertainment that was given one day at the Houſe of one of the three Miniſters of *France*, being the ſame who had the ſecret of the Court. Among other things, there was a Diſh of Olives, and one of the Miniſters of *Sweden* having found them extraordinary good, the Miniſter of *France* promiſed to ſend him a Barrel of them, and accordingly ſent him a Barrel by his Secretary. The Miniſter of *Sweden* very much ſurprized to ſee that the Secretary of an Embaſie ſhould be the Bearer of ſuch a buſineſs, but making no other reflection on it at firſt, he took the Barrel into his own hands, and finding it extream heavy, he asked him the reaſon. The Secretary told him, that he'd find when he opened it, but that the Embaſſador of *France* deſired that he would open it himſelf. The Miniſter of *Sweden* began to ſmell out then the meaning; and having diſmiſſed the Secretary, he broke open the Barrel, and found it to be full of *Lewis's* of Gold, among which he found a Letter, wherein were theſe words, *If you expect we ſhould often give you Olives, you muſt grant us the Peace.*

Perhaps now may I be asked how it comes that I ſhould get the knowledge of a thing, which ought to have been kept very ſecret both by the Miniſter of *France*, and the Miniſter of *Sweden*. But to that I'll anſwer,

ſwer, How do ſo many things which paſs in the Cabinet become common? How come we to know of ſo many Enterprizes before they are put into execution? Moreover I muſt ſay, that *France* afterwards falling at variance with *Sweden*, did not much care tho' a ſecret was divulged which was no longer of any moment to it; nay, and on the contrary it took delight in ſowing by that means a difference between the Prime Men of *Sweden*, where this buſineſs is now ſo much the ſubject of common Diſcourſe, that they attribute to it the rupture of the two Crowns. And indeed tho' the Homage which *France* demanded for the Dutchy of *Deux Ponts* of the King of *Sweden*, was very ſenſible to that Young Prince, yet wiſe men believe it would not have been a ſufficient Cauſe for a Breach, if the King of *Sweden*'s heart had not been ulcerated with the diſadvantageous Peace which *France* had brought it to make. And it will not be improper to ſay here ſomething of this matter, ſo much the more, in that during all the time I ſtaid at *Paris*, I ſaw few *French* but did maintain that the King of *Sweden* lay under a great obligation to *France*, in that it would not liſten to any Treaty of Peace, until all had been firſt reſtored it, that had been Conquered from it. But they know not that *Sweden* had been forced to yield up the Lands in *Pomerania* to the Elector of *Brandenbourg*, Lands in the Dutchy of *Bremen* to the King of *Denmark*, and laſtly, Lands in the Biſhoprick of *Verden* to the Princes of the Houſe of *Brunſwick*. But ſince I am here upon *Sweden*, I mean to tell after what manner it was ſtript of the Dutchy of *Deux-Ponts*, and under what pretext. The laſt Duke was ſtill full of Life, nay, and in good health, when *France*, perceiving this Countrey lay for its conveni-

ence projected, that as it had not yet bethought it self of its Right of Dependancy, under which Colour it seizes on so many Lands to seize on this. Now you must know that the last Duke having no Children, the Dutchy fell after his Death to the House of *Sweden*, and not to the King of *Sweden* positively, because that Duke *Adolphus* pretended to exclude him, as being nearer by one degree to him who possest it. The King of *Sweden* on the contrary pretended that the Dutchy would one day belong to him, as being Son of the Eldest, wherein there was great probability. For tho' in many places of *Germany* they have established that the nearest to the Dead succeeds in his Estates, yet it is to be observed that the use is contrary in the Electoral Houses, and principally in the Palatine House, which was the Family now in Issue. Be it as it will, the *French* King having an itch to make the Latine Proverb good, which says, that between two Persons that dispute for a Succession, there comes a third which ravishes it away from 'em both, sent Troops to seize on the Dutchy of *Deux-Ponts*, yet under pretext of keeping it for the King of *Sweden*, in favour of whom by this means he decided to the prejudice of Duke *Adolphus*. The Duke of *Deux-Ponts* who was still alive, as I have said, was not surprized to hear that the *French* Troops entred into his Countrey, because he was often exposed to their violences: But he was strangely amazed when he knew they came to gather his Succession, of him I say, who was still full of Life, nay, and had not yet the least mind to die so soon. Mean while the Troops being entred into the place of his Residence, he not only saw all his Countrey under slavery, but likewise his own Person. For as they very much doubted that a

Prince

Prince of so Great and of so Illustrious a Birth, would hardly be accustomed to see himself under Tutelage, and that it was feared he would call the Emperor to his Succour, they watcht him so narrowly, that one may say, he was rather in Prison than at Liberty.

Mean while *France* being very willing to make sure of the King of *Sweden*, of whom it still had need, for all this passed during the War, let him know, that all it had done was only to oblige him: So that this Prince not being able to imagine it had any bad Intentions, spoke of sending a Governour into the Dutchy of *Deux-Ponts*. But while that he offered this Government sometimes to the Count of *Carlson* his Natural Brother, in recompence of something he had taken from him, sometimes to a Prince of the House of *Baden* the *French* King sent thither the Prince Palatine of *Berkenfeld*, and so set the Prince of *Baden* and Count *Carlson* a shaking of hands, they before beginning to look a little askew upon one another, as two Persons are used to do, who aspire to one and the same thing.

The Peace being concluded some time after, *France* having no mind to part so soon with so delicate a Bit, would not at first shew its intentions, but still contriving a Colour to keep *Deux-Ponts*, it bethought it self of its Right of Dependancy, and demanded of the King of *Sweden* to pay it Fealty and Homage for it. This pretention, which was wholly new, surpriz'd extreamly the King of *Sweden*, but as this Countrey is far distant from his Territories, most of his Ministers already concluded that he should wink upon the matter, and not fall at variance with *France*, when *France*, which had only started this difficulty, that it might not restore what it held, caused Duke *Adolphus* to intervene that

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ſo, until they were agreed together upon the mattter, it might ſtill remain in its poſſeſſion.

Thus juſt as it had ſtripped the old Duke in his Life-time, who went to die of vexation far from his own Dominions, ſo does it now deſpoil two Princes in the very flower and vigour of their Lives. For without entring into Diſcuſſion to whom this State belongs, either to the King of *Sweden*, or to Duke *Adolphus*, it is probable to ſay, that if it cannot keep it for it ſelf, it will rather give it to Prince Palatine of *Birkenfeld* than reſtore it to either of the two. For it would be afraid, if it fell into the hands of the King of *Sweden*, of encreaſing the power of a Prince who would not eaſily be won to be its Friend, and it might believe the ſame thing of Duke *Adolphus*, whoſe true Intereſts are ever to continue well united with the Head of his Family.

Now it muſt needs be no ſmall mortification to the Palatine Houſe, to ſee ſo great a number of its Princes become Subjects in ſo ſhort a time. For in fine, beſides that he who ſhall have the Dutchy of *Deux-Ponts*, that if in caſe *France* does give it to any Body, will be obliged to pay it Fealty and Homage, how many others are there, who groan at this day in their Bonds. The Prince of *Petites Pierre* can ſay ſomething to this matter, if the unhappy example of one of his Relations did not perhaps oblige him to hold his Peace. I mean the Prince of *Weldens*, who by having had the Soul of a Prince, and reſolving to keep himſelf in the Rank which God had conferred upon him by his Birth, would now be reduced to die of hunger, if his People had not Pity of him, I ſay reduced to die of hunger; you muſt not imagine I exaggerate, for many people know as well as I, that upon refuſing to render Fealty and Homage to *France*, he

he was diſpoſſeſſed of his Dominions, where he now lives in a borrowed Houſe, and upon the Alms he receives from his Subjects. They alſo know, to what the Prince his Son is reduced; they know, I ſay, that his Father not having the means to give him a Manchet, away he trooped upon a little Nag, without Servants or Train, as might do the leaſt and moſt inconſiderable Gentleman of *France*. They know farther that he has been too happy in putting himſelf into the Service of the States of *Holland*, who have given him a Company of Foot, which is all he has now to ſubſiſt on.

Some or other will now perhaps ask me why the Prince of *Weldens*, ſhould all alone, ſtickle againſt an abſolute Power? Why does he not yield to the time as well as others; and in fine what great difference is there between a Vaſſal of the Emperor, and a Vaſſal of the *French* King? For in ſhort, I know that theſe Diſcourſes are commonly in the mouths, not only of thoſe who are in the intereſts of the Crown of *France*, but alſo of ſeveral Perſons, who cannot behold the misfortunes of this Prince without Compaſſion, and without ſeeking a Remedy thereunto: to this I will anſwer, that the Prince of *Weldens* ſeeing himſelf reduced to the ultimate neceſſity, he has tried all ſort of means of accommodation; but could not reſolve upon ſlavery. In effect, ſeeing a number of Princes of his Family had ſhew'd him the way, he ſent his Son into *France*, who offered the King on his behalf to pay him Fealty and Homage, provided he might be treated as a Prince, that is to ſay, poſſeſs the ſame Rights and Priviledges, as he enjoyed before things changed face. But the King made a mock at theſe Propoſitions, ſo as that his Son was forced to come back without any effect.

Mean while if a Body may here be allowed to make

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ſome Reflection upon the preſent ſtate of the Princes of *Germany*, and upon what they were in a while ago, it's no difficult matter to make appear how much thoſe are miſtaken, who think there's no difference between being a Vaſſal of the Emperor, and the being a Vaſſal of the *French* King. But I am to blame to ſay Vaſſal of the Emperor. For all the Princes of the Empire, I mean Sovereign Princes, as Electors and thoſe of certain Houſes, are indeed members of the Empire, but not Vaſſals of the Emperor. True, they are obliged to aſſiſt the Empire under pain of forfeiting their Priviledges, nay their States, but they are not obliged to aſſiſt the Emperor, unleſs the Empire is attacked. Wherefore let's conclude, that the word Vaſſal does not relate to Princes of *Germany*, who are Sovereigns over their Tributaries, as the Emperor may be over his. Who have Rights of Life and Death over their Subjects, impoſing on 'em burdens and Taxes according to their own Fancies; and in fine, are accountable for their actions only to God alone Let's, I ſay, Conclude, that Princes, who have thus all the Badges of a Soveraign, are very different from the Princes of *France*, who bating that they are covered when the King gives Audience to Ambaſſadors, have nothing above other Subjects. Nay, and a man may ſay they are below ſome certain Subjects that there are; for you know the Dukes and Peers take place of them, and that the Princes are obliged not to be at any Ceremony, that they may not come after 'em. Mean while, if we would look back but to the beginning of the laſt Age, we ſhould find, that among thoſe Dukes there are thoſe whoſe Fathers were Notaries at *Paris*, and other Merchants. It's well known what the Deſcendants of one of thoſe two Houſes have done not long ſince, to ſuppreſs the know-

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ledge of ſo low and ſo ſhameful an Extraction. It's well known, I ſay, that they have cauſed an Epitaph in the Church of St. *Innocent* to be taken away, and that inſtead of it you ſee one now in the *Celeſtins*, wherein there are as many Lies, as there are Truths in the other.

Nevertheleſs 'tis to men of this Extraction, that Princes who only reckon Sovereigns among their Anceſtors, are obliged to give place at this day. But what ſay I? 'tis to men of much more lower and of a much more vile Extraction, whom the Princes of the Blood are compelled to make their Court to. It's well known that what makes a mans fortune now in *France*, is not to budge out of the Anti-chamber of a Miniſter; and a Colonel of Horſe, whom I could name, and every one knows as well as I, does not diſdain to be the Buffoon of one of the Secretaries of State. For which reaſon, he has parted with his Regiment, for fear that when he was in War, another ſhould rob him of ſo noble an Employment. It's alſo well known that while Mr. *Colbert*'s at Dinner, the greateſt Lords ſtudy ſome quaint ſaying or other to make him laugh, and he that has had the luckieſt hit that way, knocks off, as well ſatisfied with his perſon, as if he had been the man who defended *Vienna* againſt the *Turks*. In fine it's well known, which nevertheleſs People can hardly comprehend, that *Monſieur*, the Kings only Brother, is obliged to have recourſe to them, for the obtaining any Boon or Favour, nay, and after he has had recourſe too, he has not always what he demands. I could prove it if I would, by a thouſand examples what I dare here alledge, but I ſhall content my ſelf with ſaying, that what happened a year or two ago, upon the account of a man who was very deſirous to come into the

Farming the Kings Customs, is a sufficient testimony. Not being able to obtain it, after having told Mr. *Colbert* again and again, he was obliged to speak to the King thereof.

If there was any need to enhance upon all this, to shew in what consideration are the Ministers of *France*, and the fawnings and stoopings which the Princes are forced to cajole them with, I need only relate what happen'd a while ago to the Dauphin. He had asked of Mr. *de Seignelay*, the Son of one of the late Mr. *Colbert* a Clarks place in a Ship, for the Son of the Officers of his Houshold, and Mr. *de Seignelay* having granted it him with some difficulty; a while after a fancy took this Minister of a new Impression, to revoke the Clark, under the pretext he was uncapable of his Office. The *Dauphin* being informed of this told Mr. *de Seignelay* that he should be very glad he were re-established, and that if he had failed in any thing it was only out of Youth, that he would stand his surety that he should do better for the future, and that he should have no more occasion for reproach. Mr. *de Seignelay* after having listned to this Prince with that gravity he of late so impertinently affects, told him that he was not Master of the thing, but that he would speak of it to the King. Upon this the *Dauphin* not being able to endure that a man of his stamp should receive so unworthily the honour he did him, rebuked him with such nipping words, as humbled his Pride.

Let's from hence Conclude that it's a great misfortune for a Prince to be born the Subject of the Crown of *France*, and a great imprudence in him who is not so, to entertain any thoughts of yoking himself in such a Servitude. Let's but ask the Prince *Palatine*, who is only a Neighbour, how he likes the Neighbourhood, and I am sure

ſure he will tell us, there is little difference between his Subjects and his Neighbour. If he pretends to ſpeak as a Prince, they'l ſpeak to him at the ſame time as Maſter, and if he would have *France* leave her at Quiet, he muſt too ſubmit himſelf to all its wills. Let's alſo ask him, whether he has now any faithful Subjects left him among ſo many Subjects who obey him, and whether *France* has not debauch'd them all. Finally, let's ask him if he dare ſo much as complain, tho he daily ſees his Territories ſo Haraſs'd, and whether he be not on the contrary told, That he is ſtill too happy in being under the Protection of ſo great a King. Let's proceed on, I beſeech you, into the Courts of other Princes of *Germany*, and let's ſee what paſſes there, before we make any Reflection on the Princes of *France*. What ſhall we ſay of the Eccleſiaſtical Electors, the one of whom ſells his Country for glittering ready Caſh, through the ſuggeſtions of *French* Emiſſaries; the other ſuffers himſelf to be daunted by its *Emiſſaries* Menaces, and the other follows ſo its paſſions, that one would ſay, the ſame Intereſt Spirited them both? But let's alſo ſay at the ſame time, that all this is not ſufficient without violence. For who doubts of all the Tricks it has play'd, and the Cabals it has ſet on foot, and are now daily working to detach them from their true Intereſts. Some are told that moſt of their States are Dependencies on the Crown, and that if they do not make it their buſineſs to Court its favour, they will not long enjoy a thing which does not appertain to them. Thus while they are fleec'd of the true Character of a Soveraign, which is of being Independant of any body, they endeavour to inſinuate to them on the contrary, that their Dependency on *France*, is the only thing which can

make them Reign. Others are bid to consider the power it has, to judge whether thus have any thing to hope but by its means, and while they are they fed with fair hopes, their People are encourag'd in Disobedience that Soveraigns may still have need of its succours to repress them; nay, and would not say, that all Wheels are thus set a work, to appropriate the more easily a State wherein each Plays the Master, while he, who has nothing to do with it, has already there got one Foot, and will set the other too, when he pleases, by reason of the Fortresses that are suffered to be demolished. Any man may easily guess, I now mean *Liege*, where *France* already holds *Dinant*, contrary to the Faith of Treaties, and where the Discord of the People with their Soveraign, renders it as much the Mistress, as if this State belonged to it. For who is so blind, as not to perceive the Policy in this Occasion. As it was ever afraid that Mr. *de Cologn* would clear up his Eyes, it thought fit to have a remedy against what may happen; and just as it maintained the *Messanezes* in their disobedience, so it fosters the people of *Liege* in their enterprises. If Mr. *de Cologn* would but once make reflection that he ought to be their Soveraign. For in fine, if this was not its intention, what should now hinder Mr. *de Cologn* from reducing a Town which is open on all sides, without Succours and without Garrisons. Wherefore if he would be pleased a little to consider with himself, and mind that the alliance of that Crown, has only served to procure him the hate of his People, and the entire ruine of his Country, without speaking of the Armies of the Empire, which after this have been obliged not to spare him, let us see how he himself has been treated, by those in whom he places all his hopes. Who but knows the horrible Contributions

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which *France* has raiſed upon his Subjects; the Deſolation of the Countrey, the Plunder of Towns, and to ſay all in a word, the Deſtruction of Cities and other Edifices? Who knows not what paſſed at *Huy*, where not ſatisfied with having Tyrannized over the Inhabitants, it has moreover pulled down the Caſtles, and deſtroyed one of the fineſt Bridges there was upon the *Meuſe*, ſo that now that City is fruſtrated of its greateſt convenience, by having received him within its Walls. But let's paſs on to the other Princes of *Germany*, and ſee whether they have any more reaſon to be contented with its Proceedings.

I might abridge with one daſh, what I have to ſay upon this Subject, if I would but only relate what has lately befaln the King of *Denmark*. For as it would be eaſie to judge by the Treatment its Ally receives from it, the Treatment which all others may expect, methinks that this ſhould be ſufficient to inſinuate its violence, and how it pretends to Lord it over all the World. But as there are many who are willing to have ſpecified what way it is the *French* Court takes to bring about its Deſigns, I mean here to give a taſte of its maxims and its enterprizes.

The whole World knows how the *Dauphins* match with the Dauphineſs was made. The conſideration the Duke of *Bavaria* was in, in the Empire, not only upon the account of the largeneſs of his Dominions, but alſo from their Scituation, was the reaſon he was courted by all Parties during the laſt War, as being able to give a great weight to that, in favour of whom he ſhould declare. This the *French* King was ſenſible of, and therefore made him daily offers of a thouſand advantageous conditions if he would engage in his Intereſts. The Em-

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perer on his side forgetting nothing that might win him, so as that the Duke of *Bavaria* judging of his Credit by the Caresses he received, resolved to hearken to both Parties, but to engage only with that with whom he should find his so doing would turn to best account.

In regard of the Emperor, he only offered him an Offensive and Defensive League against *France*, whose Ambition he laid open to him, thinking it would be sufficient to render his Interests Common; but as the Duke of *Bavaria* expected something more advantageous, he listned the more willingly to the propositions of *France*, which they endeavoured to render to him the most agreeable that was possible. In effect they joyned to a World of Politick Reasons, which might formerly be good, but which were nothing worth now, magnificent presents, which care was taken to renew from time to time. And as Princes as well as others do pretty often suffer themselves to be tempted with those lures, he was every day more and more disposed to make an Alliance with *France*. The Dutchess of *Bavaria*, for whom the *French* King had formerly some thoughts of Marriage, and who had been vex'd that it had not been brought about; thinking she might place her Daughter on the Throne, which she her self had miss'd of possessing, push'd the Elector of *Bavaria* on to this Alliance; but advis'd him at the same time, to secure the Establishment of their Daughter, who could not hope for any more advantageous Match in all *Europe*.

The Ministers of *France* quickly discovered what pass'd in the Cabinet of M. *de Bavaria*; and thinking they should the better insinuate themselves into his Favour, if without waiting, that he should prevent them upon

upon this point of Marriage, they should first make to him the Proposal of it. They declared to him, they had Order from the King their Master, to break the Matter to him; and said the same thing to the Duchess of *Bavaria*, which fill'd her full of joy. After this the Ministers of the Emperor, were no longer listned to in any manner; and there was no other talk than of the future Alliance, which was upon the Foundation of the Treaty, which then was making between *France* and *Bavaria*; by which the Duke of *Bavaria* promis'd to remain Neuter, which was all that *France* demanded. For as the Duke of *Bavaria* was powerfully Armed, and that he had resolved to observe the Neutrality as long as the War should last, *France* conjectured, as it was also true, that it would create an Umbrage in the Emperor; and that this Arming would almost produce the same effect, as if M. *de Bavaria* acted openly; and indeed the issue shew'd that these Conjectures were not ill grounded. But without amusing my self with relating what were the consequences of this matter, which all the World knows as well as I, I shall say, that this Alliance having subsisted until the Treaty of *Nimmeghen*, the Marriage of the *Dauphin* with *Mademoiselle* of *Bavaria* was Consummated presently after; seeing principally there was no other Princess to be Married in *Europe*; nor any better Family, nor who had Nobler Quality.

Besides, *France* thought by this means it had made sure of the House of *Bavaria*; but the Duke and Duchess of *Bavaria* being dead a little before, and their Dominions falling into the hands of a Young, though a more Sagacious Prince, if the saying so may be allowable, than were his Father and his Mother, as *France* perceived;

perceived; that he was not ſo wedded to its intereſts, as they had been ſought, to tie him by ſome new Alliance. Now as there is nothing more taking with a Young Prince, than Beauty, eſpecially when it is built upon, and ſeconded with extraordinary Merit; the Miniſters of *France* ſo ordered the matter, that thoſe Penſioners they had about his Perſon, ſhould often Diſcourſe him about *Mademoiſelle de Blois*, the King's Natural Daughter, who appearing accompliſh'd at a very tender Age, promis'd to become, in time, one of the moſt charming Perſons in the World.

The Elector of *Bavaria*, finding himſelf a little touch'd with what was told him every day, or perhaps ſpurr'd on with the curioſity of knowing whether Reputation did not make any addition to the Beauty of this Young Princeſs; made known that he ſhould not be ſorry to ſee her Picture. But the thing having been told to thoſe who were ſtill faithful to him, and who were jealous of his Glory, they repreſented to him too ſtrongly, the Gin that was laid for his Youth; that this Prince recollecting with himſelf, was aſham'd of what, perhaps, he had only done out of Curioſity.

Mean while there came from *France* ſeveral Pourtraicts of *Mademoiſelle de Blois*; but the Miniſters of that Crown, perceiving the ſcandal of her Birth, deſtroy'd all the impreſſions which her Beauty might make, abandoned the Deſign of this Match, of which they had before conceived ſome hopes.

Upon this they propoſed another Marriage to the Duke of *Bavaria*, and which was indeed more ſuitable, being of *Mademoiſelle*, Siſter of the Queen of *Spain*, and Daughter to the Duke of *Orleans*. But thoſe ſame Miniſters of his, who had been able to make him diſ-

reliſh

relish the former, found the means to diffwade him too from this; representing to him, that all this was but a Snare to divert him from the Alliance of the Emperor, whose Daughter he might be in hopes of Marrying; which was not only a much more advantageous thing for him, but also necessary to his interest. Wherefore that it became him to open his Eyes once for all, upon the Designs of *France*, which only tended to the Ruin of the Emperor, and of all the Empire. That true it was, that it fed him from time to time with fine imaginations; as, the having him chosen King of the *Romans*; but that at the bottom his Design was only to disunite the Princes from one another, that when the Election came to be, she might take for her self what she then so willingly offered to others. That it was not for his interest to desire a Neighbourhood so fatal to all those who had the misfortune to be his Neighbours; that this was no slander, and that there needed no more than to consider their condition, to make others dread falling into the like circumstances.

These wise Councils produced all the impression that could be expected in the mind of a Prince, who loves Glory, and flies Oppression. But as this was in no wise palatable to the Ministers of *France*; they were so outrag'd at the refusal which the Duke made of a Match with *Mademoiselle*, that they had the insolence to say, *That tho' the Elector had Married* Mademoiselle de Blois, *he would not have been dishonoured. That there were as great Princes as He, who would, perhaps, demand her in Marriage, and yet not obtain her. And that the King was sufficiently puissant to revenge himself one day for the Contempt that was made of his Alliance.* These heights gave the Duke of *Bavaria* to understand, how

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at first that Crown introduced it self by gentleness, and would afterwards establish it self by force.

But this Procedure serving only to divert him the more from this Alliance, he treated immediately with the Emperor; with whom one might say, he would find both more safety and more Glory.

Nor has the Duke of *Saxony* had more reason to commend the Conduct of *France*, who seeing that he stood wedded, as well as the Duke of *Bavaria*, to his true interest, without suffering himself to be cajoled with all their Promises, has rais'd him Enemies, both at Home and among his Neighbours; it being well known how many Tricks and Artifices it has us'd to set him at Variance with the Princes of his own Family; and which not being able to bring about, it has had recourse to Neighbouring Princes, who have given it some jealousie, which the Emperor however, has very wisely dissipated.

As concerning the Marquis of *Brandenburgh* and the King of *Denmark*, I know nothing which can afford more aversion for that Crown, than its Conduct to those Princes. For if we consider after what manner, it introduced it self into their Confidence, we shall find it set all manner of Engines a going to bring it about; but after having attained to what it desired, there is no manner of hardship but what it has made 'em suffer.

Every Man knows the Proposals the Count *de Roy* made at his arrival in the North. They know, I say, that he demanded of the King of *Denmark*, on the behalf of the King his Master, that he should share in the Disposal of the Subsidies, which he received from him; adding, they were unprofitably dissipated. The same thing almost, was said to the Elector of *Brandenburgh*.

But to hinder such like Complements, from exciting the resentments of those Princes, who ought to be jealous of their Honour; they keep buzzing about them, either Pentioners, or *French* themselves, who mollifie things, insomuch that those Princes being kept, as I may say, between fear and hope, know not what to determine. But let's here admire the Policy of that Crown, which knows how to draw its advantages from all things, even from those which would seem to be contrary to it.

The Persecution which it made Mr. *Brieckman* suffer, is sufficiently blaz'd in the World; for he after having been a long while in the *Bastile*, for having shewn his steddiness, was moreover obliged to leave his Country; saying there was nothing more to hope for him in the Service of *France*, where he had, nevertheless, consumed his *Youth*. But as soon as *France* knew he was gone into *Brandenburgh*, and that he had been kindly received by the *Elector*; on a sudden its Hatred was not only appeas'd, but it would needs too Recommend him to that *Prince*; not by it self indeed, because that would have been suspicious, but by its Generals; insomuch, that this Recommendation, joyned to the Merits of his Person, obtained him in a short time a Regiment of Horse, with the Government of *Wesel*. And he it is it now makes use of, but slily, to work out its Intentions: For though he does not seem trusted with its Secrets; and that on the contrary, he is always speaking some Resentments of what he has suffer'd from *France*, he knows how to give the Blow upon occasion; but a Blow too much the more dangerous, in that it is not thought to depart from an affectionate hand.

Bois David, who was obliged to fly *France*, where he

was a Brigadeer, and Collonel of Foot, for having fought a Duel with Mr. *d'Aubijeux*, has also regain'd its favour by acting for its Interests at the Court of *Zell*, where he is settled to advantage, there occurring nothing there, but where of Mr. *d'Iberville* is informed: and what appears the more extraordinary is that, though there be no more remission for those who are accused of the same Crime as his is, yet he goes sometimes to *Paris*, whether it be to settle his own Affairs, or as is more probable, to Confer with Mr. *de* St. *Bovange*, upon what he would not dare to trust in Letters.

All the Courts of other Princes, are thus cramm'd with Banish'd, or Discontented *Frenchmen*. But at the same time that these Princes receive them, if a Man may not say they receive *Serpents* into their *Bosom*, one may say, at least, they ought to be very careful, not so easily to confide in them their *Secrets*. For as the Genius of the *French* Nation is to slip lightly into all things, a Man may also say, that the *French* very rarely, forget the Fidelity they owe their Prince; so as that it is great Imprudence to put too much confidence in them.

But after having spoke, as I have already done of the misfortune those Princes lye under, who are in the Neighbourhood of *France*; or that have any Engagements with that Crown;

Let's now behold to what those are reduced, that it has lately drawn in into its Rights of Dependency.

I will say nothing, either of the Prince of *Petits*, *Pierre*, or of that of *Weldens*, since I have already spoken of them sufficiently; but I will say something of him of *Baden*, who was no sooner of the numbers of its Subjects, than that he saw himself compell'd to give a great

Pension

Pension to his Wife; who has left him long ago without ever any perswasions being prevalent enough to get her to return to him.

To no purpose was it for him to remonstrate that he was ready to take her again; no regard was had to his Reasons: And the first thing they began with, was to make sure of a Fund, which he was barr'd all meeting with.

I pass over in silence the Tyranny that is exercis'd towards other Princes of less consideration: For since the Princes of Sovereign Houses are no longer spared, as I have made out already, there is little likelihood that others should meet with more favour. It is not to be said what they daily suffer from these petty *Tyrants*, who of *Ministers Lacqueys* being become *Commissaries*, and of *Commissaries*, *Intendants*, attribute to themselves a Sovereign Authority.

But the *French* are not contented with stripping them of their Honour; they likewise fleece them of their Estates: How many Processes do they exhibit against them; either upon the account of the *Militia*, or the Dues of *Vassalage*? and how many Princes, who had a while ago a power of Life and Death over their Subjects, are now compell'd to go plead against them; nay, and often lose their Processes too; for this is another piece of the *French* policy, to uphold the *Vassals* against their *Lords*; as knowing, that as long as it has the People on its side, it has nothing to fear either from the *Princes* or the *Gentlemen*, who can effect nothing without the People.

Thus its Interest sways over all manner of *Justice*; but it little cares, tho' it seems unjust, provided it establishes its Dominion every where, or to say rather its Tyranny.

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If we proceed to the Usage the Gentry have met with from *France*, how many do we see ruined by Garrisons, and others still worse treated? for let it not be thought, that it sticks at the common Forms to establish its new Power, though the Law was, to seize the Lands of those who would not pay Fealty and Homage. How many has it Imprison'd, that by detaining at the same time, both their Estates and their Persons, Necessity should oblige them to comply with all its desires?

But the Treatment the Baron *d'Everp* had met with, speaks the top of its Tyranny and Injustice.

This Baron is a Gentleman of Quality, and whose Family has heretofore afforded a Queen of *Sweden*. For after having received his Fealty and Homage, it dispossess'd him, without ever any Bodies being able to give any reason for it, or that *France* it self can give any, unless, that which is well known, that it is very willing to put it self into possession of others Estates.

There is hardly any Prince in *Europe* but knows its Violences; and has moreover a notable Interest to repress them. But their Blindness is so terrible, that instead of uniting all together to put a stop to those unjust Courses, they seem to have conspir'd by their Disunion to give it the Empire of all the World. They all know it has united it self with the *Turk*, to over-run and lay *Germany* waste; the one on the one side; the other on the other: And yet they will not unite to destroy an Enemy which endeavours to plunge them into *Slavery*.

But since I have mention'd, that it was as it were through Inadvertency that Alliance with the *Turk*; it is convenient that I convince those who have hitherto

doubted

doubted of the reality of it, by a circumstance which has lately happened, and to which there is no reply.

Every man knows the vigorous resistance made by the *Count de Staremberg*, Governour of *Vienna*; insomuch, that the *Grand Vizier* often having lost an infinite number of men before that Place, was resolved to raise the Siege if he could have retreated with Honour. For that purpose he sent back *Count Albert Caprara*, who was the Emperor's Ambassador at the Port, whom till then he would not suffer to return home to make him some Propositions for a Peace, and which were much more reasonable than those he before had offer'd. But the Marquess *de Lepeville*, who was with the Emperor, on the behalf of the *French* King, having notice of it, dispatch'd away at the same time a *Courier* to his Master, to give him notice thereof; and upon this News, *France* sent back another immediately to the *Grand Vizier* to remonstrate to him the injury he would do his Reputation, after having lost so many Men before *Vienna*, to raise the Siege so shamefully; that besides he was going to enter *Flanders*, to oblige the Princes of the *Rhine* to recall the Succors they lent the Emperor; and that this Diversion would quickly procure him a happy success of his Enterprize.

The *Courier* of Mr. *de Lepeville* arrived on *Sunday*, *August* 22. at *Fontain-Bleau*, that which was dispatch'd to the *Grand Vizier*, or to Mr. *de Lepeville*, which was the same thing, departed the same day at one a Clock in the Afternoon; and that very Afternoon they not only proclaim'd that they were going to enter *Flanders*, but also the Orders were issued forth for that purpose; insomuch that the *Grand Vizier* not doubting but that

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this place, at least, they would keep and make good their word more than they had done before; he since continued on the Siege, and according to all appearance would never have quitted it, had he not been compelled by Arms. But since I see fall, that *France* had shifted in its word to the *Grand Vizier*, it is not improper to say what was the occasion of it. Certain it is, that by a secret Treaty made between it and the Port; whereof *Count Tekely* was the *Guardian* or *Trustee*, and one called *Balum* the Instrument: *France* was bound to attack the Empire on the side of the *Rhine*, at the same time that the Port attack'd it on the side of *Hungary*.

For this purpose the *French* King was already on his way to his Army, which was upon the Frontiers, but having learnt that the *Turks*, whose Beginnings had been so advantageous, that it was not to be doubted but that they would take *Vienna*, whereunto they had laid Siege, had given such a terrour unto all *Germany*, that all the Princes (though themselves already lost) he would not March on, not out of any effect of Moderation, nor much less out of an effect of Christianity, but that he might not lose himself in the Opinion of all the Princes of *Germany*; for he imagined, that lying under those woful Circumstances, they would suddenly be obliged to have recourse to him, and already reckoning upon the Empire, he would not pour upon it Desolation and Terror; and this was the cause that he now rather attacks *Spain* than the Empire. For he still hopes that if the *Turks* once seize on *Vienna*, that none but he will be able to oppose such mighty Forces, as if the Princes of the Empire would not rather chuse it was a forc'd Putt, to render themselves Tributaries of

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the *Turk* than to submit to his Slavery. And indeed, without speaking further of his *Tyranny*, which is incomparably harder to support than that of the *Pagans*; is it not probable to say, *Consciences* will not be always *Tyranniz'd* over; and that each Man will be allow'd to serve his *God*? There you will hear no talk of *Edicts*, which decree the Destruction of *Churches*; nor of *Troops* which serve for *Executioners* to those who assemble upon their *Ruins* to sing there the *Praises* of the *Almighty*. But if it is easie, at least, as I imagine, to create an abhorrence of the *French* Government; it is not so easie to teach the means to avoid it; seeing principally, as I have said, all Princes seem to conspire with it to bring *Europe* into Slavery. For in fine, is it not a thing worthy both of pity and anger, to see that in a time wherein there ought to be a general Union against so formidable a Power, they still strive to give it new Forces? for what do those think of, who have lately Elected the *Elector* of *Cologn*, or rather say Bishop of *Strasburgh* for the Bishop of *Munster*? do they not know that both those Princes are entirely devoted to *France*? and tho' the *Elector* of *Cologn* should come to rub and open his Eyes, yet the Bishop of *Strasburg* has so great an ascendant over him, as that he would still oblige him to continue in his error. Do they not know that tho' the *Elector* of *Cologn* only loves Peace, the Bishop of *Strasburgh* only loves War? do they not know that it was only by the means of the late *Archbishop* of *Cologn*, and by the perswasion of the *Bishop* of *Strasburgh*, that *France* carried its formidable Arms into the United *Provinces*; and who then now augment the power of their Heirs, who already shew but too much passion to shackle *Europe*. They have the same *Name*, the

the same *Inclination*, the same *Design* with the *Deceas'd*. It is their same *Blood*, and their same *Spirit*. We have seen into what a hideous Precipice the *Deceas'd* had thought to have tumbled all *Germany*; and yet as if people had quite forgot what has but newly happened, they give the *Nephews* the means to execute the things which the *Uncle* had only the will to do. The one has already deliver'd the Capital City of his *Bishoprick* into the hands of the *French*; and the other will have them shall deliver the rest of *Germany*, which is already put into great Captivity by this Treason. They are willing, in a word, to find the hands of *Holland* by the Neighbourhood of a new Enemy; and so fetter, by this means, the rest of *Europe*, which has no other hopes than in that State.

But let's put a period to a Discourse, which, besides, can operate no good effects; since all People do not love to be so plainly told their Truths. And indeed, as much as *France* may be vex'd that I have here discovered its *Maximes* and its *Policy*, so will the others bear me an ill-will for having rebuk'd 'em of blindness and weakness; mean while I still cannot forbear saying, to the venture of all, that these may think that it is rendring themselves the Accomplices of all the Enterprises, which *France* shall undertake, if they do not put an end to the Differences, which for this long while have so divided them. For what else can a body say? we see the one is preparing to invade *Lubeck*, another *Pomerania*; others are contriving how to oppose these Designs, when on another side a much more formidable Power, meditates the reducing them all under its Obedience. They will not suffer that one Neighbour should become more powerful than the other, but make no reflection

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that an Enemy approaches, who not contented with having enlarged his Dominions, with great Conquests, will not content himself with remaining their Neighbour.

It is for all the world, in this, just as what is pleasantly said by that Author of a certain *Lampoon*, which stole abroad about five or six months ago, upon the State of *Europe* at this day: for when he comes to speak of the *United Provinces*, he makes them say, they will not suffer the Prince of *Orange* to Reign over them; and he answers them, that they are blind and fools, since they dread all of being bitten by the Dog, and do not see the Wolf which is just ready to devour them. In effect, all those Princes of the North, perceive that the King of *Denmark* would willingly joyn *Hamburgh* and *Lubeck* to his Crown; but they do not perceive that *France* will quickly joyn to its Dominions, both those two Cities, and their Dominions too, unless they unite together to prevent it. They see that the Marquiss of *Brandenburg* has a design of invading *Pomerania*, from which he thinks he was, without reason, excluded; but they do not see, that while they oppose his augmenting his Power, another augments his to that degree, that they all run a risque of being suddenly oppress'd. Wherefore, what remedy is there to all those Mischiefs, unless that of forgetting the old Quarrels, to entertain a new one? But first, those fordid Spirits ought to be banished from Councils; who after having insinuated themselves into the favour of Princes, in reward, play them daily a thousand and a thousand Treasons. None but the Ancient Servants ought to be heard; I mean those, whose fidelity has been so often tryed, we should be blame-worthy to suspect them; for in the

Age we live all People ought to be distrustful, principally, since we daily see but too much Corruption. For in fine, Would not *Strasburgh* still subsist, if it had had only in its bosom, Persons stock'd with Fidelity. But let's admire, I beseech you, the difference there is between the Service which *France* reaps from its Subjects, which are in the Service of other States, & the Service which other States reap from their Subjects, which are in the Service of *France*. I have already shew'd, how one *Bois David*, & one *Brugmair*, both banish'd, and both proscrib'd, as they are, yet serve for Spies to their Country, in the Courts of the Marquis of *Brandenburg*, and the Duke of *Zell*. I have shew'd, I say, what reason these Princes have to suspect their Fidelity. But let us now see, how much on the contrary, the Fidelity of *Hasfeld*, who is born the Subject of the King of *Sweden*, ought to be suspected to the King his Master.

His Birth is so well known in the World, that it would be superfluous to speak of it here, unless that I had a mind to say, that being born of a *French* Father and Mother, it is not to be wonder'd that he inherits and fosters their inclinations. Yet this may be objected to him, that after his Family had been rais'd from nothing, if I may say so, by the benefits of the Crown of *Sweden*; and that he was born in that Kingdom, all the other Obligations ought to be effaced, insomuch, that what was a Virtue in his Father, is a Crime in him. And indeed who can think without having a contempt of his Person, that while *France* carries it so sparkishly towards the *King* his Master, he still conspires with it, to bring all *Germany* into *Slavery*. Was it not him who took so many Voyages to *Strasburgh*, when it was more easie for him than others to negotiate, by reason of the Language of the

Country,

Country, which is familiar to him; as also, for that he was there the less suspected? Is it not he who is daily hatching *Cabals* in *Sweden*, where he knows the Great Men are discontented, by reason of the vast Estates which the King has taken from them, because they were rather Profusions than Liberalities made by the Kings Predecessors? I only take to Witness the great Men of that Kingdom: and whether it be not true, that in a Debauch where seven or eight were present one of the Company told the other, that if *Hasfields* Counsel was followed they should set up a *Teckely* among them, that is to say, a Head of the *Male-Contents*.

But I pass many other things o're in silence, be it as it will, there's no saying but that *France* does well reward the services that one does it. Besides his receiving good Pensions from thence, and great Presents, it advances all his Family, while it ne're thinks of the best Families of the Kingdom which ne'rtheless do not a little want it. He has two Brothers, one of whom is suddenly to be a Bishop, the other an Abbot, the King having promised it him, and never failing in his word, unless we except what he and his Ministers call Word of State. There are still two others, one of whom is at *Hambourg* upon the account of the *French* King, a worthy Brother of Mr. *Hasfield*, that is to say, just as ready as he, to sell *Germany*, if the thing was in his power, and the other remains in *Sweden*, and he it is that gives notice of all occurences in that Kingdom. Now all these noble Blades, Sons of Mr. *Bidal*, that famous Bankrupt, whom *Boileau* has not fail'd to glance upon in his Satyrs, but now he is obliged by an express order from Court to raze it out, when he puts his Works again to the Press. For Mr. *Hasfield* doing such mighty feats to render his name

worthy

worthy of immortality, it is but juſtice there ſhould not remain ſo many Monuments of his infamy.

Wherefore the means to prevent all theſe abuſes, is to follow the Example which *France* does now it ſelf ſet the world. For it not only Confiſcates all the Eſtates of its Subjects who go into the Service of other States, but it alſo forbids 'em to ſerve under pain of Corporal puniſhment. Mean while if we ſee it has indulgence for ſome, we can only infer from thence, what I have noted, namely, that thoſe Perſons ſerve for its Spyes about the Princes, by whom they are employ'd, which is but too true.

Let us hence Conclude that, ſo long as there is no Care taken to remedy theſe abuſes, it is impoſſible we ſhould be ſucceſsful in our meaſures, but that on the contrary *France* will have all the advantages it can deſire. For can it be expected, we ſhould happily accompliſh an Enterprize, whereof *France* had long had notice before we went about to put it in execution? Moreover let's add to this, that it is not yet ſufficient that a Prince ſhould diſtruſt his Miniſters or change them, he muſt be his own Miniſter, and know that tho' there be one perſon in his Council proof againſt temptation, there will be a thouſand that will ſtoop to the lure. In effect, let him but make reflection, that hiring out himſelf very commonly, as at this day, is but too frequently practiſed, to him that gives moſt, his Miniſters may well do the ſame thing, and the rather, for that they want more than he does the money which is offered them.

There remains ſomething to be ſaid touching the remedy that ought to be applied to ſo many miſchiefs, wherewith we find our ſelves overwhelmed at this day. But as I can only offer what ſeveral perſons have ſaid

before

before me, I rather choose to be silent, than to repeat so many useless matters, and besides, for the most part more speculative than real. For whenI make reflection upon what I have read in so many passages, and heard spoken in so many places, that all Protestants ought to unite together in Default of *Catholicks*, to oppose their Common ruine, ought not we to Conclude that it is much more easie to reason after this manner, than to see the effect of that Argumentation? For how can they expect that the Protestants all alone should undertake a war against *France*, while the *Catholicks* are daily upon the Catch to surprize 'em. We see at this day a fair Example of their Intention, by which it is easie for us to judge of the Confidence we may put therein. I mean the usage the *Protestants* meet with in *Silesia* and the other Neighbouring Provinces, at a time when they themselves are under Desolation, and stand in full need of our Assistance. But they had rather all the Empire should Perish, than slacken their Cruelties in the least. The House of *Austria* does not see that the Authors of all these Councels, I mean the Jesuits, only give it them out of Interest; It is still willing to Sacrifice to them the rest of the Empire, whereof it has already Sacrificed to them a good part. Mean while let it not be imagined, that all I here say proceeds from any natural aversion against them upon the account of my Religion; I protest before God that I hate no body, and that I would not impute to them any of our mischiefs, if I did not see that all worthy People, even of their own Religion love 'em no more than I do. The World is sufficiently acquainted with their strange avidity to have the Estates of those four *Hungarian* Lords, whom the Emperor caused to be beheaded, to Comply rather with their pressing Instances, than for any Crime which was

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FINIS.